

Moscow flies hundreds of extra troops to Kabul

Worried by continuing resistance in Afghanistan. Russia has been flying hundreds of extra troops into Kabul and stiffening some Afghan units with an admixture of Soviet soldiers. There are also rumours that a peaceful transfer of power from Mr Babrak Karmal is being planned.

Continuing resistance causing concern

From Robert Fisk

Kabul, Feb 6
The Soviet Union has been flying hundreds of extra troops into Kabul over the past 24 hours in preparation for what appear to be new military operations outside the capital. The soldiers have been arriving at the international airport outside the city in a fleet of large Antonov transport aircraft and Russian troops—some in a new, lighter shade of uniform not previously seen in Kabul—are seen in many streets.

For the first time since the Soviet military intervention last December, Russian troops have just begun daylight patrols on the road to Jalalabad. They can now be seen—relatively few in number but accompanied by troop carriers and the new BMP amphibious armoured vehicles—at the eastern end of the Kabul Gorge, scarcely 50 miles from Jalalabad.

Although more than 1,000 Russian soldiers have been billeted in Jalalabad since last December's coup, they have so far not emerged from their barracks. However, for two days, Soviet transport aircraft have been flying into Jalalabad and Soviet helicopters have appeared over the city. Previously, only the Afghan Air Force could be seen there.

Military activity has now become so intense that Russian aircraft are flying in and out of Kabul airport at night, when even military air traffic is normally prohibited.

Soviet and Afghan troops together

A new transport park, filled with Russian lorries, has appeared near Polshchovki prison and tank transporters carrying large metal cylinders can be seen lined up beside the main road east.

Whatever the Russians are planning they are clearly worried about the continuing resistance in Afghanistan and the inability of the Afghan army to cope with this insurgent activity. Indeed, there now seems to be a conscious policy to merge Soviet troops with some Afghan units, perhaps to bolster morale.

This morning I watched a long column of military lorries pass through the suburbs of Kabul. Each lorry had brand new Afghan army badges on its doors—a red circle with a star on top of a wreath of corn—but they were driven and guarded by Russian soldiers with the hammer and sickle on their hats.

The lorries had both Soviet and Afghan troops riding together in the back.

Mr Babrak Karmal, the Afghan Prime Minister, clearly sees no reason to cancel the unsatisfactory security situa-

tion (it would in any case be impossible to do so) and one of the constant themes of all his recent speeches has been the need to eliminate the "murderers, terrorists, bandits, subversive elements, robbers, traitors and hirelings of imperialism" who have been trying to overthrow the work of the Afghan revolution.

Mr Karmal is particularly conscious of the shortages of food in some villages which he ascribes, correctly in most cases, to the disruption in transport caused by the insurgents.

Only last week, he was promising the population that the Government could provide essential foodstuffs with the help of the Soviet Union—an official at Kabul airport mentioned some days ago that several Soviet aircraft had recently arrived loaded with grain and that extra tractors would be given to farmers.

Strains appearing in Government

He also issued an appeal, couched in suitably patriotic terms, for the formation of "volunteer resistance groups" to help guard roads, bridges and convoys. A statement such as this, coming more than a month after the Soviet Union sent four entire army divisions into Afghanistan, is proof of just how serious the problem of the insurgents has become.

It is, therefore, only natural, that strains should have appeared within the Afghan Government and that two ministers, Mr Sultan Ali Keshmumand, the deputy Prime Minister, and Mr Noor Ahmad Noor, a senior polkbureau member, should be potential rivals to Mr Karmal.

Divisions within the Government, principally over the number of non-party members who should work for the administration, are now so wide that officials of the Pakistan Communist Party, which for months now has been effectively exiled in Afghanistan, are trying to mediate between the three sides.

For their part, the Russians are naturally anxious that the Government should remain communist in spirit, although it is becoming clearer that Mr Karmal's presence is not so essential to them.

No one here suggests that a further coup is being planned—something that would damage the Soviet Union's claim to be protecting a new and legitimate government. But a peaceful transfer of power from Mr Karmal to one of his contenders would not worry the Russians too much, especially since the Karmal administration has made virtually no policy decision apart from its undertaking to release all political prisoners.

Mr Mugabe accuses auxiliaries of bombings

From Nicholas Ashford

Salisbury, Feb 6
Mr Robert Mugabe, leader of the Zanu (PF) party, blamed the security force auxiliaries (Puma Revanah) today for the bomb attacks on his house and the home of Mr Kumbirai Kangayi, a senior party official.

They were "only two of many acts of intimidation by the auxiliaries which Lord Soames, the Governor, says form part of the security forces under his authority," he said here this evening.

Mr Kangayi, the party's secretary for social welfare and transport, was seriously injured during the attack at 1.15 this morning.

Police said two rockets were fired at the house in the north-western suburbs of Salisbury. One missed and ploughed into the ground but the other hit the bedroom window where Mr Kangayi was sleeping. The explosion ripped apart the bedroom.

The attack on Mr Mugabe's home, which he acquired a week ago in one of Salisbury's more sedate suburbs, took place two hours later. A grenade was thrown at the house but it did not go over the garden wall and damage was only slight.

Mr Kangayi was taken to hospital and was in a serious condition. He had been telephoned early yesterday.

The request followed several hours of secret talks on Tuesday night at which senior members of the executive conveyed the findings to Sir Michael and his colleagues. Mr Terence Duffy, the union's president, said it had been telephoned early yesterday.

Lord Soames issued a statement deploring the attacks and the abduction, last weekend, of Mr Francis Makombe, a Patriotic Front parliamentary candidate in Victoria Province.

He added that although these incidents were serious he regarded the continuing instances of political intimidation, particularly in the eastern part of the country, as being a greater problem.

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Union inquiry finds company was wrong to dismiss Mr Derek Robinson over booklet Strike threat at BL unless convener is reinstated

By Donald Macintyre

The amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' executive yesterday called for a strike of its 8,000 members at the British Leyland plant at Longbridge unless the company reinstates Mr Derek Robinson, the Communist convener dismissed in November.

The union's call came in a request from Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, for 36 hours to consider the 13-page report of an internal union inquiry, endorsed by the executive and declaring that the company was wrong to dismiss Mr Robinson. The company has undertaken to reply today.

The request followed several hours of secret talks on Tuesday night at which senior members of the executive conveyed the findings to Sir Michael and his colleagues. Mr Terence Duffy, the union's president, said it had been telephoned early yesterday.

The report heavily criticises Mr Robinson for some of his activities as convener, but finds that the company was wrong to dismiss him.

The company's main grounds for dismissing Mr Robinson rather than giving more warnings, as they did to three other members of the unofficial Leyland shop stewards' committee who signed a booklet attacking BL's recovery plan, was that it had issued a warning to him for another offence in March.

But the inquiry report rejects that, saying that the March warning over Mr Robinson's part in leading a pay strike at Longbridge was not a formal one under normal union-management procedures.

The executive has charged the union's Birmingham West District Committee, which met last night, with deciding how to consult its members on the report.

While Mr Duffy emphasised that "it is an instruction and it is incumbent on the district committee to implement it", the executive has in effect left the ultimate verdict on how far to go in support of Mr Robinson to the Longbridge members themselves. Mr Gerry Russell, the chairman of the inquiry team, said: "The membership must have the final right to decide."

The threat of a company-wide strike last November was lifted pending the inquiry, which has taken evidence from union and management representatives at several levels.

Mr Duffy made it clear that while they would not prevent the strike, they would not prevent the inquiry, which has taken evidence from union and management representatives at several levels.

Mr Robinson said the union had come "forward with a very principled decision". He added: "The case is clear cut. I have been completely exonerated by my executive."

Asked if he expected the backing of the union's members at the plant, the company's

biggest, for a strike in his defence, Mr Robinson replied: "I have always had the utmost confidence in the membership at Longbridge and I have no reason to question that confidence."

The company said it was reserving its response until it had time to study the report in full, and would reply to the union today.

There was no sign from the company that Sir Michael, who last week said he would have to have "some remarkable evidence" for the company to change its mind about the dismissal of Mr Robinson, is likely to modify his stance.

Mr Duffy, asked about the shop floor response, said: "If the members decide not to come out on strike how can we compel them? We have not got the power to compel them to respond."

Report details, page 2

Leading article, page 17



Mr Andrew Barlow, aged 29, who is Britain's youngest heart transplant patient, leaving hospital yesterday after 11 weeks. Report, page 3.

Secret buyer's £100m gold shares deal

By Michael Prest

Evidence is mounting that a mysterious buyer or buyers, possibly South African or Arab, may hold as much as 28 per cent of Consolidated Gold Fields, one of the top 15 companies in the United Kingdom and the second largest gold mining company in the world.

A legal anomaly, which has emerged since the abolition of exchange controls, has allowed a substantial stake to build up in secret.

The stock market reacted vigorously to heavy buying of Gold Fields shares yesterday. Their price leapt 16p to a record 508p, touching a high of 514p during the day's trading.

At these prices the company is valued at over £700m. On a conservative calculation the buyer or buyers have spent at least £100m on acquiring Gold Fields shares recently. In 1979 the company's pre-tax profits were £95.4m.

Rumours that a large stake was being accumulated in Gold Fields began to circulate last October. But the company now takes the view that the sharp rise in the price of its shares towards the end of 1979 was attributable to investors taking advantage of the soaring gold price.

Scrutiny of dealings in the company's shares suggests, however, that large blocks of stock are being acquired without subsequently being registered. Preliminary calculations indicate

that a buyer or group could hold as many as 40 million shares out of a total issued capital of 140 million.

Under United Kingdom company law anybody holding 5 per cent or more of a company has to declare his holding in the public domain. But shares cannot be disenfranchised unless such a provision is written into the articles of association. Most British companies do not have such an article.

One device which partially circumvents the 5 per cent requirement is that shares can be vested in a nominee. The beneficial interest has to be declared if the company asks for information.

The probability that the buyer is foreign is enhanced by the fact that when exchange controls were abolished last October foreign companies and individuals not subject to United Kingdom company law were no longer bound to obtain Treasury consent for acquiring 10 per cent or more of a British company.

British and foreign companies are thus subject to different rules until a stake reaches 30 per cent when it has to be declared to the Takeover Panel, so that the same offer is made to all shareholders.

City speculation as to the buyer ranges from Afrikaaner business interests in South Africa, with General Mining the favourites, through Anglo-Arab, through Swiss and Panamanian companies.

New offer meets union demand for 'money on table', Mr Sirs says

By Paul Rowlledge

The national steel strike may be settled next week after an early resumption of full-scale wage negotiations between the two main steel unions and the British Steel Corporation on an improved pay offer.

Pay negotiators representing 100,000 members of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the National Union of Blastfurnacemen have been called to London tomorrow to start the first serious bargaining since the shutdown of all BSC plants on January 2.

Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the ISTC, said last night that a new offer sent round by hand from Mr Robert Smeley, British Steel's chief executive, met the unions' demand for "money on the table".

He estimated that sufficient progress could be made in negotiations to call off the strike by the end of next week. Negotiations would probably resume on February 17.

BSC has dropped many of the job-economy conditions attached

to its original proposals. It is thought to have got the union back to the negotiating table with an offer of around 9 per cent across the board plus a further 4 per cent for acceptance of local productivity bargaining. Both elements would be paid on an existing wage rates from January 1.

The steelworkers union suggested yesterday that the money for the package now on offer must have come from a climbdown by British Steel on its vast and rapid plant closure programme planned for 1980.

"They will now be prepared to go rather more slowly on plant closures," Mr Sirs predicted. "I would assume this is one of the things they are doing. I said they should not be paying £270m in redundancy money, but maintaining jobs."

"The Government will not like it, but they will be pleased as punch to get off the hook of this strike."

Ministers had hoped that the bulk of the £450m of public money available to BSC for 1980-81 would be spent on

shedding 52,000 workers to reduce the industry's capacity by around a third to bring it into line with demand. The union says there will now be no immediate job loss.

"It will be a hard struggle," Mr Sirs said. "Our members are still thinking in terms of 20 per cent without strings. I have not met anybody who says he will accept less. But it is not so much the amount. It is the fact that we are getting an offer, and it will be paid weekly from day one."

The ISTC has already drawn up a draft agreement based on the latest British Steel proposals, deleting some clauses and inserting others. This will form the basis of tomorrow's talks. BSC will still insist on "strings" and the law negotiators will resist this demand.

But Mr Sirs hinted that there could be a compromise on less controversial items such as elimination of overtime, continuity of local productivity bargaining and other matters of common interest.

Other steel news, page 2

Letters, page 17

Labour Party reforms urged

Labour moderates have got in first with their evidence to the party's commission of inquiry which holds its first substantial meeting tomorrow. In a proposal for revitalization, the Campaign for Labour renewal, proposes an attempt to involve the grassroots in policy-making and selection. Its proposals seem certain to be resisted by the present left-wing dominated NEC.

Drug plotters jailed

Leading members of an international syndicate which stole quality cars on the Continent and in Britain and sold them in Turkey and the Middle East for cannabis, were jailed at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

Stockbroker expelled

The London Stock Exchange has expelled one of its members, Mr Terence Webster, after its disciplinary committee concluded that, when Stirling, Grumbar & Co, he had acted in a "disgraceful manner" and "for personal gain".

England lose last Test

Despite an unbeaten century by Botham, England lost the third Test match against Australia in Melbourne by eight wickets, and the series 3-0. England set Australia a target of 103.

Trade union 'spies'

The labour movements of Eastern and Western Europe are a principal area of counter-espionage, according to a report published today. It says the security forces watch the movements of British trade unionists.

Fee rise of 24 per cent for students

Tuition fees for about 500,000 undergraduates and postgraduates are to rise by 24 per cent in September. The increase will not affect the vast majority of undergraduates whose tuition fees are paid as part of their grants, but many postgraduates and overseas students will be hard hit.

Divorce inquiry urged

An all-party group of MPs led by Mr Leo Abse is to press Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, for a wide-ranging inquiry into the operation of the divorce laws.

British plea on budget

A Treasury report hints that EEC countries opposing a reduction in Britain's contributions are going against the spirit of British entry negotiations. Another publication evaluates the cost of the common agricultural policy to Britain at £2,000m this year.

Urban waste land: Government to launch a campaign to deal with derelict areas of inner cities.

Cold comfort: Few of the preparations claiming to relieve colds, coughs and influenza are even worth trying, magazine says.

Action in Gulf: Lord Carrington said he hoped Britain would join American military action if needed in the Gulf.

Local Radio: Three-page Special Report.

Classified advertisements: Appointments, pages 26, 27; Personal, 25, 30; Piano feature, 28, 29; Property, 25.

Home News, 2-4; Church Court, 6; Crossword, 6, 7; Overseas News, 6, 7; Appointments, 18, 22; Arts, 12; Features, 11; Business, 19-24; Law Report, 25.

Russians worried by US-China link

The American military rapprochement with China has upset the Russians more than any other retaliatory Western measure after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. They see it as one of the most serious threats to the Soviet Union since the Second World War.

Leader page 17
Letters: On unions and the law, from Mr Robert Armstrong, QC, and others on the price of gas, from Professor Lord Kaldor; on Dr Sakharov, from Professor R. Penrose and others.

Leading articles: Mr Robinson and BL; Labour manifesto; Unsuccessful cricket tour.

Books, page 12
Smiley's People reviewed by Michael Redcliff; Hugh Thomas on communism in Spain; Stuart Evans on new fiction; Gay Firth on Ireland and women.

Arts, page 9
John Higgins makes Sir Richard Attenborough, on the occasion of his making over the Duke of York's Theatre; William Mann experiences a sensitive Odeon at Covent Garden; Irving Wurland on The People Show at the Royal Court.

Obituary, page 18
Professor Gordon Manley, Professor Harry Redgate, QC, and others on the price of gas, from Professor Lord Kaldor; on Dr Sakharov, from Professor R. Penrose and others.

Features, pages 8, 16
Arthur Osman on the way the "Sun" George syndicate was smashed; Ronald But on abortion.

Sport, pages 10, 11
Olympic Games: The Sports Editor on why Britain should not go to Moscow; Football: Rochdale appeal rejected; Rugby Union: Lions tour may cost Carleton his job; Snooker: Fred Davis loses to Higgins in Masters.

Business News, pages 19-24
Stock Markets: Hopes of an early end to the steel strike gave fresh impetus to equities. Gifts after a cautious start managed to reverse earlier falls. The FT index rose 8.1 to 455.9.

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Commission will monitor all TV programme complaints when fourth channel starts

By Fred Emery

The Government's broadcasting Bill, intended to establish by autumn 1982 a commercially operated fourth television channel of a distinctive character, was published yesterday. It also includes provision for an independent Broadcasting Complaints Commission to cover programmes produced by both BBC and ITV.

It hopes the Bill will be passed by this summer, but is making a firm launching date for the service dependent on 90 per cent reception coverage throughout the country, which itself will depend on engineering deadlines and economic criteria. The Bill also extends the life of the IBA until the end of 1986, with provision for a further five-year extension.

The main interest in its provisions is how the Government lives up to its promise in awarding the channel to commercial television to exact a "strict security" from the IBA.

Last November the IBA announced that it proposed running what the Bill drably calls the "second service" through a separate company with its own board, which would commission programmes from contractors, including independent producers.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, clearly is relying on this board, in which the programme companies' representation would not be in the majority, to ensure that the new statutory duties laid on the IBA would be carried out in a "complementary" and, in advertising revenue terms, non-communistic service be set up.

The Bill makes no mention of the board as such, requiring only in clause 4 that the IBA operate the new channel which is not the case with ITV. This subsidiary shall, excepting guard for outside producers it shall ensure that "a substantial proportion" of programmes be

supplied by persons other than a "television programme contractor" or any body corporate under such a contractor's control.

A satisfactory duty regarding the content of programmes, especially for tastes not catered for otherwise on ITV, is laid on the IBA in clause 3. The IBA must ensure the programmes "contain a suitable proportion of matter calculated to appeal to tastes and interests not generally catered for by ITV 1; to ensure a 'suitable proportion' of programmes of educational nature; to encourage innovation and experiment in the form and content of programmes"; and generally to give Service 2 a distinctive character of its own."

The IBA will be required to report annually on how the two ITV channels have differed in programme content.

Furthermore, the Bill provides that the new channel will initially be a national service with, however, special provision for Wales. "A suitable proportion" of the programmes broadcast in Wales must be in the Welsh language; the assumption by ministers is that there will be about 20 hours of Welsh language transmission shared between both ITV channels.

Arrangements are to be made with the BBC to ensure that when Welsh is one channel, English will be on the other three.

Ministers explained that news for the new channel will be provided by ITN which would be expected to expand its proposed current affairs coverage, something that has been restricted on ITV 1.

Finance for the new channel is to come from the ITV companies, but since it will take time for the new channel to become established through advertising this is expected to provide a shortfall of some £45m in public funds. This is because

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Cabinet rift delays union law proposals

By Fred Emery

Ministers were unable to agree yesterday, and so deferred for next week the consultation proposals for restricting trade union immunities presented by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment.

Mr Prior had wanted his paper published this week; but at the same time he was against any rush into ill-considered action provoked by frustration over legal rulings in the steel strike.

According to Whitehall sources, it was solely the complexity of the legal issues involved which compelled the need for further study. The Government wanted to get it right, one source said, recalling Mrs Thatcher's phrase in her television interview last month.

However, there is no disguising differences between Cabinet ministers over the cautious approach Mr Prior has adopted. Some ministers wish to seize the pressure opportunity to go further and seek to attach union funds as a possible penalty for legal defiance—a course Mr Prior and his supporters view with consternation.

The "hawks" believe that if the Government does not act now the opportunity may never be repeated. The "doves" around Mr Prior believe that such provocation could ensure the collapse through impossibility of implementation, of any reform of union power.

Present at yesterday's Cabinet "12" committee, in addition to Mr Prior, were Mrs Thatcher, Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Angus Maude, Paymaster General, Sir Ian Grieve, Solicitor General, and Mr Norman St John Stevas, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

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HOME NEWS

Tuition fees for many graduate students to rise by 24 per cent

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Tuition fees for about 300,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students are to go up by 24 per cent in September. The increase will not affect the vast majority of home undergraduates whose tuition fees are paid as part of their mandatory grants, but many postgraduates and overseas students will be badly affected.

Announcing the increases in a parliamentary written reply yesterday, Mr Mark Carlisle, QC, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that the recommended annual tuition fees for home undergraduates would go up from £595 to £740, and for home postgraduates from £890 to £1,103.

For overseas students, the recommended new undergraduate fee is £1,165, up from £940; the postgraduate fee is £1,325, up from £1,080; and for full-time overseas students on non-advanced courses the recommended fee is to go up from £320 to £445.

Those increases will affect the estimated 40,000 overseas students already on courses, who are expected to continue studies into 1980-81. All new overseas students will have to pay the new fees.

The Government has recommended minimum fees for overseas students embarking on courses in universities in September 1980 of £2,000 for arts, £3,000 for science, and £3,000 for the clinical year of the courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science. Some universities have already decided to charge higher fees, ranging up to £6,000 a year for some science courses at the

Cranfield Institute of Technology.

The fees recommended by the Government for new overseas students in maintained colleges and polytechnics are £3,300 for advanced laboratory and workshop-based courses; £2,400 for advanced classroom-based courses; £1,890 for non-advanced laboratory courses; and £1,380 for non-advanced classroom courses.

The Department of Education and Science explained that the 24 per cent across-the-board increase is more than the predicted 14 per cent inflation rate for the coming year because it takes into account the relatively small increase in student fees in 1978-79, which was less than the inflation rate that year, and because it includes an allowance for the expected increase in higher education costs due to the special salary award for university and college teachers arising from the Clegg Commission's comparability study.

Mr Trevor Phillips, president of the Union of Students, described yesterday's announcement as a cruel blow for overseas students. By September most would have faced an increase in fees of more than 20 per cent since beginning their courses, and with the £1 gaining strength, the real increase for many would be double that.

Many of Britain's best brains would be barred from postgraduate studies because of the increased income tax, particularly as the research councils and other bodies giving postgraduate awards were having to reduce the total of research grants.

Upper income limit for assisted pupils cut

By Our Education Correspondent

Parents with one child and a gross income of £4,000 or less will be eligible for a grant covering the entire tuition fees at an independent school under the Government's assisted places scheme, Mr Mark Carlisle, QC, Secretary of State for Education and Science, will announce today.

The scale of remission for the means-tested scheme, which is due to start in September 1981, was agreed yesterday by Mr Carlisle and his three junior ministers, and will be announced in a parliamentary answer today.

The upper income limit, beyond which no help will be given, has been reduced from the proposed £9,500 for parents with one child to about £8,000. Critics felt that families with an income of £9,500 could hardly be described as "poor".

Mr Carlisle repeated in the House on Tuesday that the purpose of the scheme was to allow children to attend independent schools, whose parents "would not otherwise be able to pay the fees". The average grant under the scheme, about £550, would be about the same as the cost of keeping a child in a maintained secondary school.

Doctors favour some aspects of Corrie Bill

By a Staff Reporter

Support for some aspects of Mr John Corrie's Bill to tighten the abortion laws has come from a Gallup Poll commissioned by the British section of the World Federation of Doctors who Respect Human Life.

Answers from the nationally representative sample of 980 respondents show a majority in favour of stricter controls.

Results show 61 per cent in favour of abortion only in certain circumstances, 23 per cent in favour of abortion on demand, and 12 per cent believing that it should not be allowed at all.

Significantly more men than women favoured abortion on demand. An absolute majority of 62 per cent thought that the time limit for abortions should be 20 weeks or less.

Three quarters of those asked agreed that the upper time limit for abortions should be changed, and a quarter thought that Mr Corrie's proposal of a reduction in the limit from 28 to 20 weeks, except in cases of danger to the mother's life or serious foetal abnormality, did not go far enough.

The proposal that business and financial links between referral and abortion agencies should be severed was supported by 56 per cent.

Letters, page 17

Wales TUC balks at strike call by miners

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

South Wales miners' leaders tried unsuccessfully yesterday to persuade the Wales TUC and its other affiliated unions to launch an all-out strike in Wales from March 3.

After their defeat at a hard-fought meeting of the general council of the Wales TUC, the miners' meet tomorrow to decide whether to "go it alone" and close the area's coalfield.

When the meeting ended, Mr Emyr Williams, president of the South Wales miners, said: "I am not happy with today. I was mandated to bring the all-out strike forward. We have stayed on a united front, so far with the Wales TUC."

The miners have been in the forefront of the campaign to force total opposition to the British Steel Corporation's plan to run down steelmaking at Llanwern and Port Talbot, and to combat the policy of importing coal.

They have been anxious to join the steelworkers in fighting against what they claim is the industrial rape of South Wales, but are privately worried that if the steelmen settle the chance of leading a crusade against the Government's economic policies will be lost.

Mr George Wright, secretary of the Wales TUC said: "The miners were a little disappointed with the situation today. I hope they will stay with us."

Originally the unions in Wales planned all-out action from March 10, but were placated by promises from the national TUC that it would co-ordinate positive action unless the BSC's policy was changed.

The Wales TUC will continue to put pressure on Congress House in London, and has called a one-day conference in Cardiff of all its 350 delegates on February 27.

Mr Wright said that unless there was movement by BSC or the Government, he believed there would be action on March 10, but he hoped it would be led by the British TUC.

The Welsh hoped that next week's meeting of the TUC's nationalised industries committee would give a sufficiently militant lead to avoid unilateral action in South Wales.

Newspaper to close

The *Wolverhampton Chronicle*, a weekly newspaper first published in 1789, is to close in two weeks because of falling circulation.

Wives challenge pickets as steelmen work on

From Frances Gibb
Sheerness

As wives and children mounted a counter-demonstration to pickets at the Sheerness steelworks in Kent yesterday, workers voted overwhelmingly to defy their union executive and carry on working at the plant.

At a meeting of nearly one-third of the 500 members of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation at the steelworks, all but half a dozen of 160 men voted to go on working.

About 20 wives opposed the 200-odd pickets from Sheerness and Sheffield who have been outside the main gates of what is one of the country's largest independent steel producers.

Another half dozen women, with children, demonstrated outside the Labour Party headquarters in the town where a meeting between steelworkers and Mr Leslie Bambury, ISTE organizer for the London area, took place.

The men came out of the meeting smiling and in spite of an almost universal refusal to comment, a few remarked: "Of course we are going back to work."

Mr Bambury, who had been sent to persuade the men to strike, gave warning that if they refused there would be a "very sizeable picket" today at the gates.

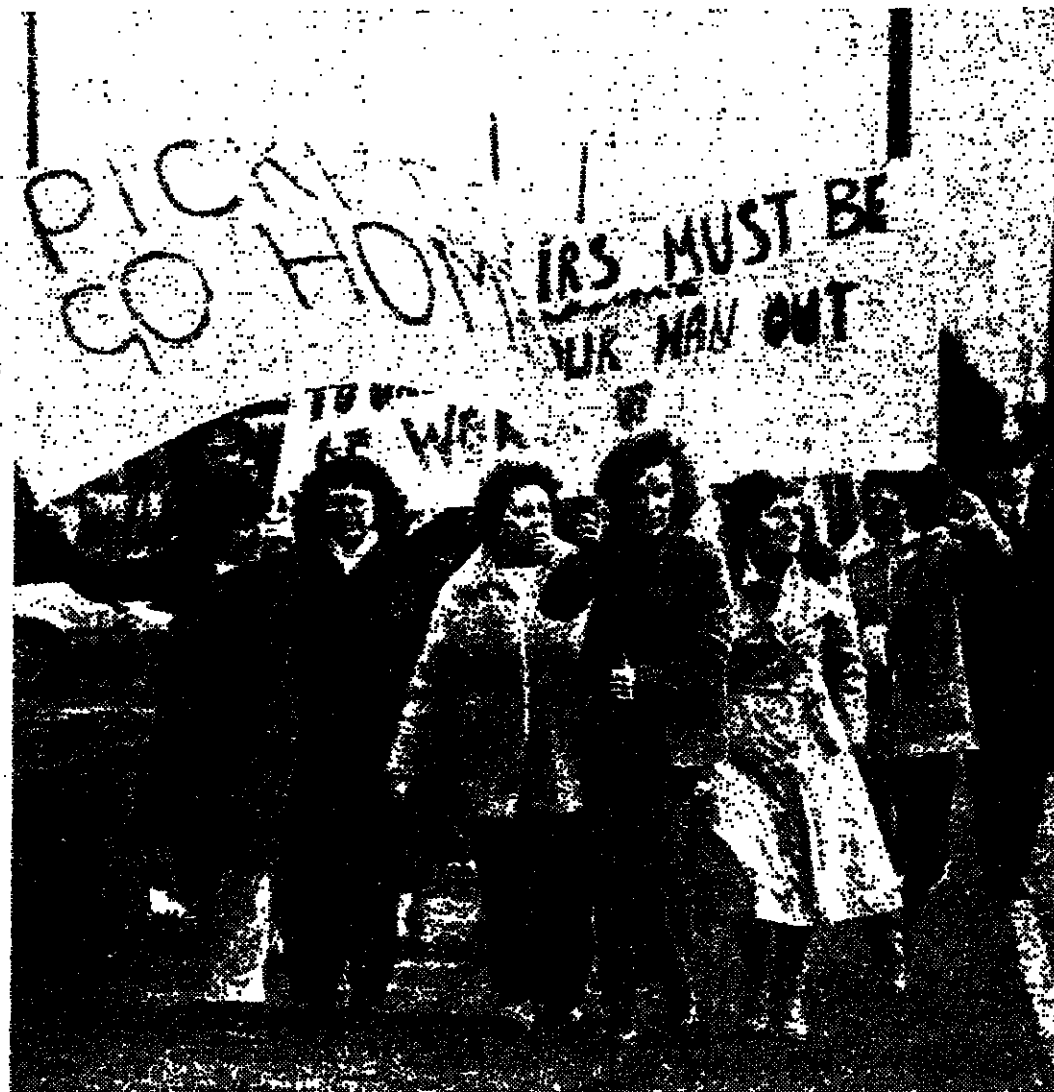
"The difficulty here is that this is not a traditional steel producing area. This is not a steel community. It is a young plant, a successful plant and the men are rather like mules. When they make a decision they dig their heels in and it is my job to make them move."

He would be reporting to head office on the result of the meetings, and it was possible that the men refusing to strike would be disciplined.

"At one time, one of 41 plants still operating and obviously we are upset by the attitude of our members here," Mr Bambury said.

Undeterred by threats of a mass picket the wives said they would turn up in force. Mrs Carol Haver, mother of three, said: "There would be more of us here today, if so many did not have to work or look after children. But we will turn up, with the children if necessary."

Others were saying, "Pickets go home," and "Bill Sims must be a Bourk (sic) to



Wives marching in support of workers who refuse to strike at Sheerness steelworks.

order our men out of work." The women faced pickets who were unsuccessfully trying to stop lorries going through and provoked some good-humoured jeers.

Keeping their distance, the women booed and called "coward" to a van delivering biscuits, one of the few which turned back. They cheered other vans that went through the picket lines.

The wives argued that, with mortgages and children, they could not afford to have their husbands striking. "How can you bring up children on £20 a week social security," one said.

The company, which is

Canadian-owned, had brought work to the site of Sheppey and if it closed there were no more jobs, they said.

Mrs Christine Lissenden, aged 31, mother of two, whose husband earns £120 a week home pay a week as a furnaceman, said: "We feel it is our duty to back our men. It is not their dispute; when they were negotiating for a pay rise two years ago, and asked British steelworkers for their support it was refused."

Another worker's wife, Mrs Pat Charles, said: "This is just to show that the British housewife is not as apathetic as people think. It is always us women who suffer, with rising prices

and so on. It is time we stood up and were counted."

Steelworkers and their wives were full of admiration for the Sheerness works. Mrs June Hinton said: "Our husbands may be well paid here but they work for it. They only get a good pay rise when there are profits."

The work force of 800 produced 500 tonnes of steel a head a year, she said, compared with 180 tonnes a head in the British steel Corporation. Overall, the company produced 450,000 tonnes of bars and rods a year from recycled scrap metal and claimed 3 per cent of all steel production in Britain.

Sir Keith says TV programme was wrong

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, denied yesterday that he had intervened to prevent a 12 per cent pay offer being made to British Steel Corporation employees.

Reports that documents "leaked" to last Monday's edition of *Granada's World in Action* television programme, proved that he had stepped in to prevent such an offer being made, he said in a statement. It coincided with legal action taken by the BSC in the High Court against Granada. The corporation was granted a temporary injunction to prevent

the television company using or disclosing documents belonging to the BSC.

Sir Keith said that references to the Government and himself were untrue. "At no time have I stepped in, directly or indirectly, to stop, amend or otherwise interfere with any pay offer by the corporation. What I did in July 1979 was to set BSC a financial target and a cash limit for 1980-81. These were based on the requirement that BSC break even in 1980-81, a target a little less stringent than that which the board set itself in April 1978 and which was subsequently supported by Mr

Eric Varley, the then Secretary of State for Industry," Sir Keith said.

There had been no secret about the target and cash limits and within those constraints the corporation was free to determine how to run its business and what pay settlements it could afford.

The temporary injunction granted by Mr Justice Oliver to the BSC yesterday is effective until Tuesday. Mr Leonard Hoffman, QC, for the BSC did not dispute the nature of the documents but an affidavit stating the corporation's case was handed to the judge. Granada was not represented.

Union official denies director's allegation

Mr Maurice Wolstenholme, a Yorkshire official of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, has denied an allegation made by Mr Ernest Barrett, joint managing director of Henry

Barrett and Sons.

Mr Barrett alleged the company had been threatened with the blacking of future steel supplies. Mr Wolstenholme said: "Obviously I am not in a position to say things like that. It is totally untrue. What we said

was that we did not look favourably on traditional BSC members who were adopting the attitude they were adopting". Mr Wolstenholme said Barrett had two sides. The fabricating side, which was unionized and had reached an agreement with the ISTE, presented no difficulties. The stockholding side, which was not unionized, presented difficulties over the movement of steel.

News the public does not want to read

By David Nicholson-Lord

A bigger effort should be made by "quality" newspapers in the West to increase public awareness of the Third world, said a leading newspaper editor in chief of *The Observer*, said last night.

Delivering the Haldane Memorial Lecture on "The Press in the World", Dr O'Brien said poorer countries resented world news domination by the western media, which he said was "a kind of information apartheid".

Large areas became the news equivalent of astronomical black holes, since nothing much was happening except that people were suffering and dying. The press had to bring home to a public which did not want to know about world poverty that it was in its interest to know about it and to support action against it.

Dr O'Brien added: "This is not merely the duty of a free press but a vital interest within the code in that a full-time official had been present. It would, however, be difficult to consider the subsequent appeal fair since it was heard by Mr Gilroy, who had endorsed the earlier decision to dismiss.

Manifesto Group calls for unity in Labour Party

By Our Political Staff

If the Labour Party is to win the next general election it has to resolve the fundamental internal differences which have made it impossible for social democratic policies to be carried out in the past, Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, secretary of the Manifesto Group of moderate Labour MPs, said last night.

Areas where Labour governments had not succeeded were prices and incomes policy, and industrial relations. He told students at the London School of Economics.

Without clear, agreed policies on these issues, Mr Wrigglesworth said, it would be difficult to make any real progress in overcoming levels of productivity in British industry. Nor would it be possible to get the economic growth necessary to reduce unemployment, and fund the public expenditure programmes Labour supporters want to embark upon.

BBC will help to finance new channel

Continued from page 1

The ITV companies will have smaller profits and so pay less levy on profits to the Government.

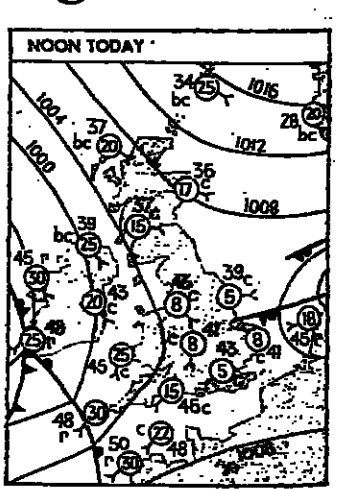
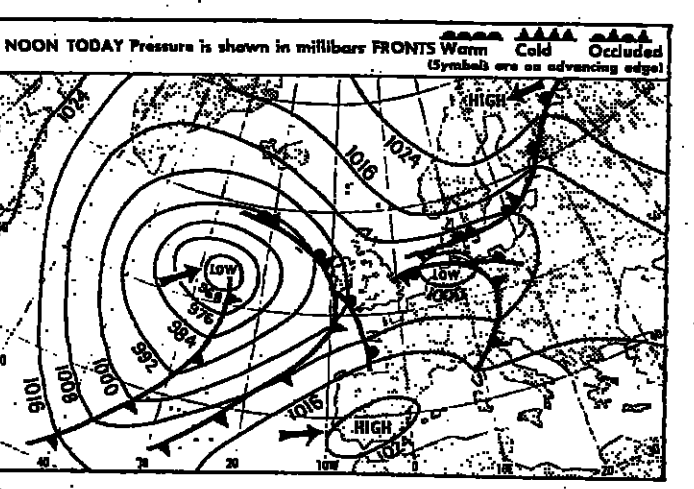
The new Broadcasting Complaints Commission, with members to be appointed by the Home Secretary, is estimated to cost £150,000 a year, but will be reimbursed by the broadcasting organizations, including the

BBC. It may publish findings on complaints of unfair or unjust treatment in broadcasts, or infringements of privacy in programmes or in connexion with gathering of material included in programmes "actually so broadcast".

The Liberal Party spokesman, Mr Clement Freud, MP, for the Isle of Ely, said he did not see how the IBA would avoid taking

the majority of its programming from the big companies. Mrs Mary Whitehouse, honorary general secretary of the National Viewers and Listeners Association, rang *The Times* to say that she wanted no minority taste television until the Government had set new standards for decency and obscenity.

Weather forecast and recordings



Report criticizes Mr Robinson but says dismissal unfair

By Donald MacIntyre
Labour Reporter

Mr Derek Robinson, the Longbridge convenor, should not have been dismissed but instead published a booklet calling for disruptive action against the plant, according to an internal union inquiry into the case. The union should therefore pursue Mr Robinson's reinstatement, the inquiry report says.

In particular the report, published yesterday, says that an earlier warning to Mr Robinson in March was not a formal one in accordance with normal disciplinary procedures and therefore could not be held to justify dismissal for a later alleged offence.

The report, prepared by Mr J. G. Russell, Mr Kenneth Cure and Mr John Weakley, all members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' executive, also criticizes Mr Robinson for "serious failings and lack of responsibility in relation to his duties" as convenor.

The report recalls that the inquiry was ordered by the executive after consideration of the "extremely damaging" consequences that a dispute over Mr Robinson's dismissal might have. It was essential that the executive first satisfy itself fully on the circumstances before embarking on such a "drastic step".

The team considered the company's letter of November 22 to the union pointing out that the BL recovery plan had been overwhelmingly endorsed by the hall of employees. The Leyland combined committee, the

letter said, should have endorsed that decision but instead published a booklet calling for disruptive action against the plant.

BL had not been prepared to accept that. It warned three of the employees who had signed it and dismissed the fourth, Mr Robinson, for his activities as chairman of the combine. His punishment had been harsher because he had been warned in March 1979 for other acts of misconduct, the letter said.

The first task of the team had been to establish whether there was a formal code of discipline. The company's code, drawn up in accordance with the Employment Protection Act, had not been agreed with the shop stewards. But the report says that in practice "it is perfectly clear" that the code is "enforced" since stewards and full-time officials have operated its machinery.

Alleged disciplinary action, March 12, 1979: On February 5 BL Cars senior stewards had agreed to recommend five days notice of strike action over a dispute arising from the management's failure "to implement the nationally agreed minimum time rates" and amounts due under the company's parity programme. Mr Robinson had reported that to a meeting of the Longbridge stewards, who voted for strike action from February 7.

The management had regarded the position as so serious that they asked Mr Robinson and Mr Jack Adams,

senior TGWU shop steward, to meet them.

Mr J. Gilroy, manufacturing director, Austin Morris, told the inquiry he had said at the time that the strike would not be met, that statements by Mr Robinson had been wrong and the strike would only damage the company. Mr Gilroy had added: "Unfortunately our attempts to get logic to prevail failed. In fact the following day, during the meeting on the Park, Derek Robinson referred to it and was quite abusive."

The strike went ahead and ended on February 7. On March 12, Mr Robinson and Mr Adams were summoned to the plant personnel manager's office.

The management said that Mr Adams was asked to be present as Mr Robinson's colleague "in accordance with the spirit of the disciplinary code". They had decided on an informal hearing in order to be constructive.

They pointed, among other things, to the damage caused by the strike. Mr Robinson's use of "misleading" statements, the fact that only Longbridge had struck and that the stewards' decision (at Longbridge) had been contrary to national union decisions. Mr Robinson, the management statement said, knew he was being disciplined because he said: "I've got the message, but I don't try to sack me or Jack Adams."

The union statement said Mr Robinson had given no indication it was a disciplinary

hearing, although the meeting was "a very heated one".

The report criticizes Mr Robinson who, it says, should have been given the opportunity to state his position. Five days' strike notice, failed to report that the Longbridge stewards had made a contrary decision and had failed to report on the March 12 meeting to the district committee.

Disciplinary Action November 19, 1979: The report recalls the seven to one majority of the employees in favour of the recovery plan.

After the ballot, the Leyland combine had published a booklet calling for "continue resistance to the plan by factory occupation sit-ins and the blacking of transferred work from one plant to another".

The management said they had sent for Mr Bert Benson, the Birmingham West district secretary, in the presence of Mr Robinson.

Mr Robinson had, according to the management, refused to accept that he could be disciplined.

The union account of the meeting said that Mr Robinson had declined to dissociate himself from the booklet. The district secretary said the document should have been raised nationally, the disciplinary code had not been operated in March, BL was discriminating against Mr Robinson and the booklet would have little or no effect. The inquiry team had no doubts that on that occasion the management had operated

within the code in that a full-time official had been present. It would, however, be difficult to consider the subsequent appeal fair since it was heard by Mr Gilroy, who had endorsed the earlier decision to dismiss.

The report comments that Mr Robinson "had no right as an AUEW convenor to put his name to this booklet without the prior approval of his district committee and thereafter of the executive council".

He had no right to call for disruptive action within the district without approval of either body and he "certainly had no right whatsoever to call for disruptive action in other districts".

The report concludes that the March 12 meeting was not a disciplinary hearing.

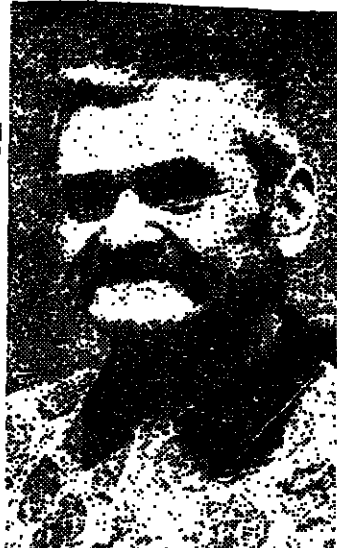
Mr Robinson was denied an appeal, against the earlier warning, and the warning had not been expunged after three months as was, according to the report, normal in the case of oral warnings. Nor was the management's action communicated to the union's officials.

It is our considered view that Mr Robinson should not have been dismissed for the reason that he was warned on March 12, 1979, and we recommend we pursue his reinstatement. We must however comment as a committee on the serious failings and lack of responsibility shown by D. Robinson in relation to his duties as our AUEW convenor at Longbridge."

Leading article, page 17

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HOME NEWS



Mr Don Marney: Progressing well.

Celebrations for new heart man

Two of Britain's heart transplant patients celebrated yesterday. The most recent one had a glass of beer, and the youngest left hospital a week earlier than planned.

Mr Andrew Barlow, aged 29, Britain's youngest heart transplant patient, said as he left Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, that he was looking forward to playing golf.

"It is up to the doctors, of course, but I have to take plenty of exercise, and I do not think golf will be too much of a strain," he said.

He left hospital 11 weeks after receiving the heart of a youth, aged 17, in an operation led by Mr Terence English, the surgeon.

Mr Barlow, of Sunnyside Road, Bramley, Leeds, said it was a great relief not to have to wear surgical masks and gowns, and insisted his life now would be perfectly normal. He hopes to return to his work of photographic processing soon.

Mr Don Marney, aged 50, Britain's latest heart transplant patient, posed for photographs at Hatfield Hospital, Hillingdon, west London.

Mrs Margaret Marney, his wife, who is a psychiatric nurse, said: "Without this my husband was finished. The marvellous team at this hospital have kept my husband alive for me."

He was seriously ill after having a second heart attack on June 23. His first had occurred five years earlier in 1974.

The four-hour operation on Mr Marney, of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was led by Mr Mazidi Yacoub. Mr Marney was given the heart of a woman aged 29.

Mr Jeremy Millar, hospital sector administrator said: "He is progressing very well. But at the moment it is too early to say when he might be allowed to leave the hospital."

The last five British heart transplants all took place within one year.

The apparent success of the last four is due to better techniques for transplant surgery developed in the United States, and improved methods of preventing rejection. Surgeons are also able to preserve the donor heart better, and have been helped by a more accurate definition of when death has occurred.

Judge orders release of documents in race case

By Annabel Ferriman

The Civil Service Commission has been ordered to release the application forms of 78 applicants for the job of legal assistant in 1977 to enable a Sri Lankan to fight a case of alleged racial discrimination against it.

The commission had refused to disclose the documents on the grounds that too many were required and it would be oppressive to have produce them.

Mr Justice Slynn, president of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, making the order yesterday, said that no case of racial discrimination in employment could begin until an employer refused to produce any details regarding other job applicants for comparison.

Mr Dayananda Perera, aged 39, an executive officer in the Civil Service, is alleging that the commission discriminated against him by refusing his applications for the jobs of legal assistant, legal trainee and cost and management accountant trainee, despite his good qualifications.

He had also been refused promotion to the ranks of higher executive officer, administrative trainee and principal.

Mr Perera, who has a BSc and a law degree, and practised as a barrister for five years in Sri Lanka before coming to Britain in 1973, is working as a value-added tax officer in HM Customs and Excise. He was taken on by the Civil Service in 1975 after a favourable interview.

He was called to the English Bar in 1977, having worked for the bar examinations in his own time and later completed the foundation examinations for

cost and management accountancy before applying for the job of an accountant trainee.

Last September, however, he discovered that after his first interview for the post of legal assistant, the interviewing board had written on his file that he was never to be called for interview again.

He said the Employment Appeal Tribunal yesterday that he was barred from becoming a higher executive officer and an administrative trainee because he was too old and from becoming a principal because he was not senior enough, so all advancement was barred.

The tribunal yesterday upheld his appeal for the disclosure of documents relating to his legal assistant job application as long as they were kept anonymous, but refused his request for the disclosure of certain other documents.

Mr Justice Slynn rejected an appeal on Tuesday by Mr Stephen Kirby, a job centre employee, who claimed that he had been victimized by his employers, the Manpower Services Commission, in Bristol, when he passed on information about some of the centre's clients to the Bristol Committee for Racial Equality.

The information led to an employer using the job centre being convicted of racial discrimination. Mr Kirby had been moved to lesser duties.

The industrial tribunal, which heard the case in Bristol, found that Mr Kirby had passed on truthful information in good faith and that he had suffered a detriment in his job because of it, but said he had not been victimized, because he had acted irresponsibly.

The Due Process of Law, Butterworths, hardback £8.95; paperback £4.95.

"can see all around, whereas judges can only see one side." "This I dispute," Lord Denning goes on. "The judges have better sight and longer sight than those other bodies."

"And when it is said that some other body should first investigate and report, I ask: 'How long, O Lord (Chancellor), how long?'"

Divorce laws inquiry is called for by MPs of all parties

By Alan Hamilton

An all-party group of MPs led by Mr Leo Abse is to press Lord Denning, the Lord Chancellor, for a wide-ranging inquiry into the operation of the divorce laws.

The group is concerned that procedures give insufficient attention to the welfare of the 200,000 children left each year with divorced parents; that the provisions for reconciliation have been an almost total failure; and that some aspects of maintenance payments have been rendered obsolete by the changing social status of women.

A previous approach by Mr Abse to the Lord Chancellor in October was received coolly on the grounds that there was no agreement on how the law could be improved; that no funds were available to set up family courts; and that the Law Commission, looking at technical aspects of the law.

Since then Mr Abse has gathered considerable support from the Commons and has drawn up detailed proposals for changes in the 1969 Divorce Act, of which he was the principal architect.

He said yesterday: "We hoped that when the courts were relieved of their obligation to establish innocence or guilt in divorce proceedings, they would give the bulk of their attention to ensuring the best possible settlement for the children. But it has not worked that way."

The group urges that when a divorce petition has been filed, the parties should appear at an early stage before a judge in chambers to consider arrangements for the children. Only if the judge was satisfied that the best possible arrangements had been made would the case proceed to a decree nisi.

"There are widespread fears that the courts are not making custody decisions; too often they are simply rubber-stamping arrangements made by parents as part of the bargaining, or the financial and property arrangements in which the children sometimes become pawns," Mr Abse said.

The group claims that post-divorce difficulties arise least when the child spends at least one-fifth of its time with the non-custodial parent; but the present law makes access by non-custodial parent; but the children almost a privilege to be earned. There is a need for more joint custody orders, the group believes.

On the question of reconciliation, it says that now divorce is so quick and simple there is almost no opportunity for the parties to resolve their differences and save their marriage.

The group believes also that the appearance before a judge in chambers at the beginning of proceedings would be beneficial.

With 40 per cent of second marriages ending in divorce, there was an urgent need to look at the question of maintenance payments to a first wife.

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Police union may give evidence on cell deaths

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The Police Federation, which has criticized "a campaign of abuse" by some MPs about deaths in police custody, has been invited to give evidence on the subject on Monday to the Select Committee on Home Affairs. The federation has rejected calls for a Government-appointed public inquiry.

Half the session with the MPs is expected to be devoted to deaths in police custody and the other half to evidence about public order, the subject of one of the committee's other examinations.

The expected presence of the Police Federation indicates a widening in scope of the committee's inquiry, which originally was expected to have been confined to one meeting on the question of deaths in police custody. The Corners' Society has agreed to give evidence on February 14.

Mr James Jardine, the Federation's chairman, speaking in Coventry on January 16, attacked a "most unwarranted smear on the reputation of the police service. There is nothing in the figures which even begins to justify the campaign which is being waged in the press and is about to be launched in Parliament."

It could be estimated that over a 10 year period about four million people had been in police custody of whom 245 had died, a mortality rate of 6.25 per 100,000.

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BBC Baby: Facing the camera for the first time is Rebecca Louisa Wilcox, aged three weeks, with her mother, Esther Rantzen, the BBC television personality. Her father, Desmond Wilcox, is BBC head of general feature programmes. Born at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, Rebecca is at home in Kew with her parents and sister Emily, aged two.

Aid drive to revitalize urban waste land

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Government is to make grants to private individuals and public bodies, as well as to local authorities in a new campaign to deal with derelict land.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday. The wider powers are envisaged in the Local Government Planning and Land Bill.

Mr Heseltine told a seminar in London, organized by the Institute of Municipal Engineers, that greater emphasis must be placed on reclaiming derelict land in the inner cities.

Explaining his proposal, he said: "I want to make it possible for the private sector and nationalized industries to bring forward schemes for reclamation of derelict land in their ownership without the necessity of having to dispose of it to the local authority."

It was nonsense that councils should have to go through the time-consuming and expensive business of acquiring land in order to reclaim it.

Mr Heseltine emphasized that that would not represent a subsidy for the private sector or nationalized industries, and the cost of the grants would be recovered from any increase in land values.

Grants will also be paid towards providing development infrastructure, including basic services, such as sewers and access roads.

He added that the new powers would have to be used within the existing financial allocation. Spending this year will be about £23.5m, and it is Sir Horace Cutler, leader of the Greater London Council, referring to the newly announced urban development corporation for docklands, said the need was for a small, high-powered development corporation, the Government's financial commitment, and private sector cooperation.

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HOME NEWS

Trade union spies and counter-spies wage cold war, report says

By Paul Routledge

The labour movements of Eastern and Western Europe are a principal area of espionage and counter-espionage, and the movements of British trade unionists are "routinely observed" by the security forces, according to an Economic Intelligence Unit report published today.

"There is a determined and sustained effort to use the trade union movement as a method of influencing national politics in the West", it argues, and "sleepers" inside industry on both sides are said to be waiting to play a role in the event of war.

The author, Dr G. K. Busch, a former trade union official in the United States and Europe, declares that Communist efforts to infiltrate the West are matched by intelligence efforts to support and sustain dissident labour activities in Eastern Europe.

The EIU last night declined to comment on the allegations in the 80,000-word report, although three former general secretaries are named as having been active in the post-war reconstruction of unions in Europe.

Dr Busch says: "A principal area of espionage and counter-espionage in Eastern and Western Europe has been the trade union movements. After military intelligence, the most vital area of intelligence is the trade union area, which covers military, political and economic affairs."

British, American, French and German trade unionists are routinely observed by their security forces, interested in whom they meet and where they travel. This is largely because a substantial effort is made by the Russian, Czech and Polish intelligence organizations to expand their contacts among Western unionists.

Dr Busch, former research head of the United Automobile Workers and assistant to the general secretary of the International Chemical Workers' Federation, alleges that Josef Frolik, the Czech defector, spent years in Britain spying primarily on trade union affairs.

The EIU report also "unmasks" Mr Boris Aveyanov, a regular visitor to the annual Trades Union Congress, as "a

principal actor in the Russian efforts to penetrate and influence foreign unions."

Mr Aveyanov, head of the International Affairs Department of the Soviet All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, a former labour attaché in the London Embassy of the USSR, is said to be a colonel in the KGB.

Britain is credited with exposing a Soviet "mole" in the Swiss-based International Labour Organization.

"In June 1973, Vladimir Bukrayev was cordially invited to leave the Geneva headquarters of the ILO, where he headed the publications department, after British revelations that he was a KGB operative."

Dr Busch admits that his catalogue of Eastern block efforts to penetrate the West's trade union movements is "sketchy and incomplete", but says it discloses a determined effort to use the trade union movement to influence national politics in the West.

"These efforts are matched by Western intelligence programmes of counter-intelligence with the Western union movements and, increasingly, by positive intelligence efforts towards supporting and sustaining Eastern European dissident labour activities."

The EIU report finds four main causes for that "vast expenditure of manpower and resources on mutual penetration". First, it identifies the close links between unions and political parties.

Second, union contacts are sources of information on products, sources of supply markets, and the industrial relations difficulties that can be exploited.

Third, in the event of war, reliable cadres might be called upon to stop war production, halt energy supplies, and generally interfere with national policies. Throughout world industry "sleepers" wait to play a role.

Fourth, unions can be influenced to support and legitimize union efforts with which a nation or political party cannot afford to be seen openly to support.

Political currents in the International Trade Union Movement (Economic Intelligence Unit Ltd, Spencer House, 27 St James Place, London SW1S 1NT, £30).

Union heads split over striking teachers

By Diana Geddes

The head of one teachers' union yesterday called on striking teachers to "stop playing truant", while the president of another praised striking teachers for making the kind of stand against education spending cuts that the Secretary of State ought to be taking.

Mrs Wendy Lunt, national chairman of the Professional Association of Teachers, said that the strikes and stoppages by teachers in Avon, Trafford and Nottinghamshire were "disgraceful".

We are entrusted by the community with educating their children, yet all too many of our colleagues betray their trust. Their conduct is shameful and we reprehend it. If our pupils behaved like that we would correct them. Emulation is an important part of education."

She attributed the rapid growth of the still relatively small association (its membership has grown from 12,000 to 20,000 in the past year) to its commitment to strike. The association would never do anything to damage children's interests.

Mr James Murphy, president of the National Union of Teachers, which has an inactive membership of 250,000 and represents more than half the 470,000 teachers in England and Wales, accused Mr Mark Carlisle, QC, Secretary of State for Education and Science, of having failed in his statutory duty to protect the education of the people of England and Wales and the progressive development of institutions devoted to that purpose.

Paraphrasing Sir Winston Churchill, Mr Murphy told the House of Commons that the NUT: "Never in the history of education has anybody done so much harm to so many in so short a time."

He accused Mr Carlisle of "breath-taking hypocrisy" when he said in the House of Commons on Tuesday that he very much respected any action taken by the NUT or any other union which could harm the educational opportunities of pupils.

"This is clearly a case of the mugger blaming his victims for resisting", Mr Murphy said.

Mr Whitelaw considers public demand for information on how to prepare homes for attack

'Restricted' nuclear survival booklet may be published

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent Mr Whitelaw, Home Secretary, in response to public demand is considering whether to publish *Protect and Survive*, the booklet the Government intended to keep under wraps until nuclear attack seemed likely.

It was to have been issued at a suitable period before an attack, to be judged by the Government at the time, based on Nato estimates—since revised downwards—that there would be three to four weeks of build-up in tension beforehand.

Publication of a series of articles in *The Times* last month produced many inquiries about the booklet and how people could make preparations. Among more than 30 inquiries received by letter or telephone, there were several expressing anger that preparations had been made to provide shelter for government and other officials but not for the general populace.

The French Embassy received inquiries, according to a diplomat there who telephoned *The Times* for more details. One article had a paragraph quoting the Journal of the Institute of Civil Defence's translation of the cover of the booklet, published in France by the Nationale de la Protection Civile. Giving French people advice on shelter building, it said that details of prefabricated shelters made by industry

could be obtained on request.

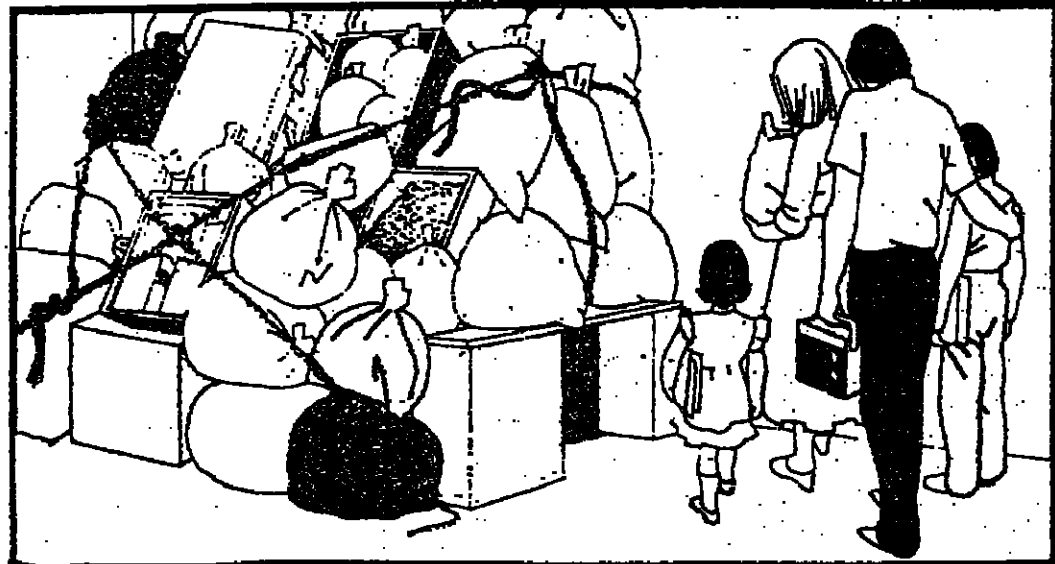
The French Embassy rang to say that they had been turned away empty-handed from the Stationery Office when they asked for copies of *Protect and Survive*. One said that he was told *The Times* had made a mistake in publishing a photograph of the cover of the booklet; another said that he was told the booklet was "restricted"; and a third that *The Times* had been "naughty".

The booklet says that the best way to provide shelter within the home against radioactive fallout was to make a fall-out room and build an inner refuge within it. A family might need to live in the room for a fortnight. It advises the choice of a place furthest from outside walls and roof and the use of a cellar or basement if there is one.

There is advice on how to use materials to thicken walls and the floor above. Within the room an inner refuge, to be used during the two days and nights after attack when radiation dangers could be critical, should be lined with dense materials to resist radioactivity.

The booklet gives "some ideas" for the inner refuge: 1. Make a "lean-to" with doors taken from rooms above or strong boards rested against an inner wall. Prevent them from slipping by fixing a length of wood along the floor.

Build further protection of bags or boxes of earth or sand—or books, or even clothing—on the



An illustration from "Protect and Survive" showing an inner refuge. Under the bags, which are filled with earth, sand, books and so on, is a lean-to made of doors. The portable radio carried by the man is for listening to government instruction.

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Build further protection of bags or boxes of earth or sand—or books, or even clothing—on the

slope of your refuge and anchor these also against slipping. Partly close the two open ends with boxes of earth or sand, or heavy furniture.

2. Use tables if they are large enough to provide you all with shelter. Surround them and cover them with heavy furniture filled with sand, earth, books or clothing.

3. Use the cupboard under the stairs if it is in your fall-out room. Put bags of earth or sand on the stairs and along the wall of the cupboard. If the stairs are on an outside wall, thicken the wall outside in the same way to a height of six feet.

The booklet lists five essentials to take into the fall-out room for 14 days' survival: water, food (tinned or well wrapped); portable radio and spare batteries; tin opener, bottle opener, cutlery and crockery; warm clothing.

The booklet gives an illustration of an improvised lavatory, made from a chair with the seat taken out and a bucket underneath lined with a disposable polythene bag.

There is advice on how to limit fire hazards, such as by removing inflammable materials from rooms in the house. Those include magazines, some of which the booklet has previously told readers to include as part of their fall-out room kit.

The Home Office says that the booklet would be intended to supplement recorded advice from broadcasting networks in the weeks prior to attack and after it.

Author fears chaos from lake scheme

From Our Correspondent

Whitehaven

Tourist traffic would be left in chaos if a scheme to raise the level of Ennerdale Lake, which has been the subject of a long-running dispute, is carried out, it was claimed yesterday.

An objector to the North West Water Authority's plan to raise the level of Ennerdale Lake, providing more water for industrial use, Cumbria, also said the traffic needed to carry out the work, expected to take two years, would cause difficulties for doctors and mountain rescue teams travelling along narrow roads to answer emergency calls.

Mr Bob Orrell, an author and farmer, of Gillerthwaite farm, Ennerdale, was speaking at the "two lakes" inquiry at Whitehaven, which is considering the water authority's application for a proposal to raise the level of Ennerdale Lake to raise the level of West Water.

Mr Orrell said that if the Ennerdale scheme went ahead, 20-ton lorries would have to use roads only 6 ft wide in places.

With influenza, take to your bed. There is no point in taking a cold to a doctor unless it shows no improvement after a week, your symptoms go beyond those normally associated with a cold, or you suffer from respiratory troubles.

Cold comfort for cold sufferers

By Robin Young

There is no cure for the common cold. Relatively few of the preparations claiming to relieve the symptoms of colds, coughs and influenza are worth trying, according to the February issue of *Which?*

The magazine, published by the Consumers' Association, surveyed nearly 300 preparations helped by panel of medical experts. Only 24 are rated "worth trying".

Sucking any boiled sweet would soothe a sore throat as much as lozenges and cough sweets. Nasal sprays and drops can leave the patient more "blocked up" than before.

The antiseptics in mouthwashes had no more than 100 viruses that can cause colds. Cough expectorants might taste as if they were doing some good, but their value was "very debatable".

Inhalants and vapour rubs were only worth buying, according to *Which?*, to make inhaling steam more pleasant. The medical experts said vitamin tablets were not helpful in treatment, and disliked remedies which contained many different types of drug including treatments for symptoms the patient did not have.

Cough suppressants did seem effective. *Which?* says that the magazine says that complete cough prevention "would be dangerous".

Which? suggests treating coughs by staying in a warm, humid and well-ventilated room, inhaling steam. For sore throat it recommends a gargle with unbranded soluble aspirin.

With influenza, take to your bed. There is no point in taking a cold to a doctor unless it shows no improvement after a week, your symptoms go beyond those normally associated with a cold, or you suffer from respiratory troubles.

People who shop at parties given extra protection

By Our Consumer Affairs

Correspondent

More than £200m a year is spent on goods at parties organized by friends and neighbours. Now customers are to have additional consumer protection as a result of a revised code of practice published yesterday.

Members of the Direct Sales and Service Association, who are responsible for 85 per cent of door-to-door and party-plan selling in Britain, undertake to give each customer written details of where complaints can be made without involving the party hostess.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director-

General of Fair Trading, said that had been few complaints about party-plan selling, but a study by the Office of Fair Trading had found some.

The new code also provides that invitations make clear the sales purpose of the party, that the companies will insure themselves against claims arising from selling parties in their homes, and that customers can cancel orders placed at parties within 14 days.

Mr Borrie said that although part of the code covers door-to-door selling, it is possible that legislation would still be needed.

Man accused of three murders at Glasgow hospital

James Harkins

was accused at Glasgow Sheriff Court yesterday of murdering his wife, young son and teenage brother-in-law in a psychiatric hospital on Tuesday. Mr Harkins, aged 29, appeared in private and was remanded in custody.

Those who did were his wife Joyce, aged 25, their son James, aged four, and his wife's brother, Peter Flynn, aged 18, all of Beaton Road, Balloch, Strathclyde.

Mr Harkins, of Cally Avenue, Drumchapel, Glasgow, was charged with murdering them in the Gartnavel Royal Hospital, Glasgow.

MP wants remote girls' borstal to be replaced

By Our Home Affairs

Correspondent

Disturbing facts disclosing the isolation of girls in borstal and a continuing inadequacy of effort to rehabilitate them are given in a parliamentary written answer by Mr Leon Brittan, QC, Minister of State at the Home Office.

During 1979, 29 per cent (54) of the 186 girls discharged from Bullwood Hall, the only closed borstal for girls in England and Wales, had received no visit from either a probation officer or a social worker during their stay there. During 1978, the figure was 50 per cent of 220 girls discharged.

Forty-two girls, or 23 per cent (29 per cent in 1978) received no visits from family or friends and 20 per cent (20 per cent also in 1978) had only one such visit.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Glik, Labour MP for Ormskirk and chairman

of the All-Party Penal Affairs Group, who asked the parliamentary question, said yesterday that the figures showed the absurdity of having that women's borstal in such an isolated and inaccessible place.

He said: "It should be closed, as indeed was recommended by the Younger report in 1974."

Referring to figures of visits by probation officers and social workers to Bullwood Hall, Mr Kilroy-Glik said they made "a mockery of any attempt at rehabilitation."

Though Bullwood Hall, which contains 102 cells, is the only closed borstal for them, there is an adjunct at Styal closed prison for women, Cheshire, where there are 19 girls. There is an open borstal for girls at East Sutton Park, Sutton, Valence, near Maidstone, which in December had 13 girls more than its certified normal accommodation.

Five years' jail for man who killed his wife

From Our Correspondent

Nottingham

Adrian Krill, aged 26, who was said to have killed his wife and then attempted to kill himself, was jailed at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday for five years for manslaughter.

Mr Justice Griffiths told Mr Krill: "I take into account that you were gravely provoked. But the fact remains that you killed your wife in a terrible manner."

Mr Krill, a demolition worker of Aberporth Drive, Birchwood Estate, Lincoln, was acquitted of murder. He had admitted manslaughter.

Mr Brian Farrer, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mrs Krill, aged 23, mother of two children, had left her husband, who had had a vasectomy, for Gareth Pritchard, aged 19. When pregnant by Mr Pritchard, she told her husband she wanted to return home. At his mother-in-law's house at Ordsall, near

Warder said to have stolen clothes from prisoners

From Our Correspondent

York

While prisoners were serving lengthy sentences at Hull maximum security prison, Jeffrey Conyers, a prison officer, borrowed their clothes to stroll around the city, it was stated at York Crown Court, sitting at Knarborough, North Yorkshire, yesterday.

Mr Conyers, aged 54, a prison officer for 19 years, had been stationed at Hull, pleaded not guilty to three charges of theft from Hull prison between October, 1974, and August, 1975.

Mr Keith Lawrence, for the prosecution, said that Mr Conyers had been working in the reception area, where prisoners handed over their own clothing to be held until their release date.

Once Mr Conyers had borrowed a prisoner's overcoat to attend a promotion meeting in London but never returned it. The police found it in his home three years later.

Mr Conyers has also denied stealing a prisoner's sports jacket and later having a suit made for himself by outsider tailors who were employed to make clothing for prisoners due to be released.

Mr Thomas Ward, a former prisoner, said that soon after Mr Conyers took over the reception area two prison officers were measured for suits.

The trial continues today.

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Accreditation of social workers is challenged

By Our Social Services

Correspondent

Accreditation of social workers can set and maintain standards, but cannot guarantee that clients will be protected.

A discussion paper, published today by the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, says there is little evidence that accreditation in other fields protects clients from the incompetence of professionals.

Accreditation in Social Work by the Social Work Council (CCEWS), Derbyshire House, St Chad's Street, London WC1H 8AD, £1.25.

Former minister barred from copying papers

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has rejected a plea from a former Labour minister to be allowed to photocopy sealed papers on the ground that his successor has publicly referred to them.

The Prime Minister has told Mr Alfred Morris, former minister for the disabled, that she will not make an exception and cannot agree that the papers should be published.

Mr Morris was seeking unrestricted access to papers prepared by a team of officials he appointed to work on a green paper on comprehensive benefit for disabled people, in-

cluding the blind. The papers were lengthy and devised to make publication possible last June.

The papers were sealed when the Conservatives took office in May, but they were referred to by Mr Morris, Minister for Social Security, when he attended a meeting of the all-party disabled group in July. Mr Prentice told the group that work on the green paper had halted because it would be wrong for him to raise expectations when public expenditure cuts meant any new benefit must be a long-term aim.

Normal practice allows former ministers to have access to their papers, but not

to photocopy or remove them. Mr Morris asked Mrs Thatcher to treat him as a special case in view of "the present minister's knowledge of the papers" and of the effect of being to copy personally such lengthy references to the papers as disabled people.

Mr Morris is seeking less restricted access to the papers on behalf of the Disabled Income Group, which wants to distribute summaries to its members.

But Mrs Thatcher wrote: "The convention does not envisage that former ministers will take away copies of official papers from the Department, and it certainly does not extend to the publication of papers. I am in no doubt that the reasons for this convention remain valid."

that such access must be limited to former ministers personally", she said in a letter. Mr Morris disclosed yesterday. Ministers might not substitute a research assistant.

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Car driven at girl after crash

A car driver who mounted a

kerb in Hall Road, Norwich, knocked over a girl riding a bicycle on a path and then turned round and drove at her again, narrowly missing her.

She was treated for cuts and bruises. "There was no apparent motive", police said yesterday.

Double murder charge man killed himself

Ricky Grybkowski killed

himself in Brixton prison while waiting to stand trial, charged with two murders, it was stated at an inquest at Southwark, London, yesterday.

Mr Grybkowski, of Park Road, Kingston upon Thames, London, was charged with the murders of Virginia Bateman, aged 24, of Addington Road, Sanderson, London, and Belinda Best-White, aged 27, of Elm Road, Kingston upon Thames, London.

The jury returned a verdict that Mr Grybkowski, of Park Road, Kingston upon Thames, had killed himself.

Det Inspector Leopold Pickersgill said that after his arrest Mr Grybkowski had openly admitted killing the two women.

Redundant man takes over his department

Mr Stephen Kingston, an

engineering worker, has opened a business at the Light engineering factory where he has just been made redundant. He lost his job when the company closed the pattern shop as part of a £500,000 economy drive.

Mr Kingston, aged 35, decided that he wanted to run the department himself and the company agreed. The company, at Peterborough, has loaned him 9,000 sq ft of premises and equipment worth £50,000 free until he gets the business off the ground.

Peter Brotherhood Ltd, which employs more than 1,000 people, said: "We thought it the right thing to do rather than have equipment lying idle when such enterprising people could use it."

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WEST EUROPE

Britain fires new round in Budget battle

By Caroline Atkinson

The Government has fired another round in its battle to reduce the size of Britain's contribution to the EEC. The *Economic Progress Report* published yesterday by the Treasury hints that the EEC countries which now oppose a reduction in Britain's contribution are going against the spirit of the early negotiations for British entry.

The report coincided with the publication of a paper, *The Common Agricultural Policy*, by the Institute of Fiscal Studies, which claims that the true cost to the British consumer of the common agricultural policy will be £2,300m this year. This is nearly twice as much as the £1,200m which is now quoted as the expected cost of Britain's total net contribution.

The paper's authors, Mr John Kay and Mr Nick Morris, say that the cost to Britain of higher food prices for the food brought directly from other EEC countries should be included in the cost of the policy.

It makes no difference to British consumers whether they are paying more for food because of import levies which the Government then transfers to Brussels, or because of high prices charged under the common agricultural policy by other EEC producers. But official calculations on the cost of the policy include only the former.

The Treasury report comes at a time when the government appeared to be losing its battle for a big cut in the EEC cost this year.

It points out that in 1971, the original EEC Six agreed when discussing the possibility of a very large British contribution once transitional arrangements had ended, that "should unacceptable situations arise within the present Community, or an enlarged Community, the very enlarged of the Community would demand that the institutions find equitable solutions".

Clearly Britain believes that the present size of its contribution is unacceptable and inequitable.

The paper says that on present policies Britain would make about 60 per cent of the total net contributions to the EEC budget in 1980 although it is the third poorest country in the Community in terms of gross national product per head.

The Treasury has been closely involved in drawing up the arguments for the Prime Minister to make to other EEC heads of government. The careful tone of the report is likely to be echoed by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The report suggests that the EEC should seek ways of correcting Britain's low receipts from the budget as well as high payments into it. A plan is being circulated to set up a special fund to help Britain.

The Institute of Fiscal Studies estimates that the total cost of the common agricultural policy to EEC consumers and taxpayers is now about £15,000m. In Britain it was £1.5m in 1975 and is now about £1.5m, the authors say.

Turkish hint of early attempt to join the Nine could lead to embarrassment in Brussels

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Feb 6

Turkey is likely to apply "before the end of this year" for full membership of the EEC, Mr Hayrettin Erkmen, the Turkish Foreign Minister, said here today. This is much sooner than any of the existing nine members of the Community would care to consider.

Politically, a Turkish application would put the EEC in a highly embarrassing position, given Turkey's strategic geographic location in the Nato alliance and the need for Western solidarity after events in Afghanistan.

The Nine seem likely to play for time by spinning out the processing of any entry request.

At a press conference, Mr Erkmen did not disguise the serious economic difficulties which Turkish membership would pose, both for Turkey and the EEC. But, he said, Turkey would not be the only country in the Community with economic problems.

He said that the Turkish Government had already taken measures to stabilize its economy and suggested that these should show sufficient results over the coming months to make an application for membership a practicable proposal.

Mr Erkmen went much further in his press conference than in his address to EEC

foreign ministers yesterday, in which he reaffirmed his Government's desire for eventual membership but gave no indication that an application would be submitted in the immediate future.

Pressed by Mr Erkmen for a firm commitment on future EEC membership, the foreign ministers agreed that future should be developed "with a view to facilitating the accession of Turkey to the Community at a later date", in accordance with the terms of the current association agreement.

Under Article 26 of the agreement, which dates from 1963, the EEC promises "to examine the possibility" of Turkish membership at such time as Turkey is "in a position to accept the full obligations of the Treaty of Rome".

While accepting that the agreement clearly implies that full membership is the ultimate goal, the Nine simply do not believe that the backward and underdeveloped Turkish economy could possibly meet the requirements for survival within the Community's customs union.

Turkey's gross national product per capita is less than a seventh of the average in the Nine and barely a third of that of Greece, which will become the tenth member of the EEC on January 1, next year. It has

a yawning trade deficit of 50 per cent inflation and 20 per cent unemployment.

Quite apart from the economic difficulties, the Nine have no wish to embark on another disruptive round of enlargement negotiations when they are still digesting the Greek, Spanish and Portuguese accession, and Portugal are only in their early stages but Spain is hoping for entry by the beginning of 1983.

There is some obscurity about the motives behind the Turkish move and doubt about whether Mr Erkmen's statement is a genuine attempt to bring the Turkish Government into the Community or a ploy to win domestic backing for a membership application.

Some EEC diplomats here believe the Turks may be using the threat of an application to secure a better deal under the existing association agreement, which in their view has failed to bring the Turks promised when it was signed.

Apart from substantial financial aid, and better access to Community markets, the Turks are anxious to secure guarantees that the Greeks will not be allowed to use their membership to block future Turkish membership or to press for EEC action that could harm Turkish interests.

Paris tones down summit warning to Russians

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 6

Somewhat less than a year ago, French commentators yesterday claimed that one of the merits of the Franco-German summit was that it put an end to the tergiversations of French policy on Afghanistan in recent weeks, and produced a clear warning to Russia to mend its ways. Their satisfaction seems to have been premature.

No sooner had President Giscard d'Estaing agreed, in the summit declaration which ended the summit meeting, to take a firm line with Russia than he went out of his way, after the departure of Helmut Schmidt, to qualify this considerably by insisting that it was important to keep the dialogue going with Russia, and to emphasize that he was not in favour of sanctions against Moscow.

Commenting on the Franco-German declaration for a small group of French journalists, the President said it emphasized both the "unacceptable character of certain interventions," and the determination to "preserve the achievements of détente over the last few years".

He was anxious, he made it clear, to assert a specifically European approach to détente and, in spite of Afghanistan, to maintain the special relationship of France with Russia.

At the event of foreign confrontation, he said, "We belong to an alliance. But it is

precisely to avoid this foreign confrontation that initiatives and efforts have to be made. We consider that it is important to keep the dialogue with the Soviet Union going in order to define the conditions of a Soviet withdrawal.

"The Soviets have exposed at length, through diplomatic channels, the motives for their intervention and their intention to withdraw their forces. We must make them detail the conditions of this withdrawal. We must pursue the dialogue, and the dialogue will be pursued."

France, the President went on, had no intention of modifying the relations with the Atlantic alliance.

"On the other hand, there is an international policy of France which has always been marked by a determination to be independent. It is this independent policy which leads it, at the present time, to seek the conditions in which international tension might be reduced," the President insisted.

His Government had one objective: to reduce tensions. It was a different approach from that of sanctions. Experience had shown that, faced with sanctions, countries are led to stiffen their stands, and to reject the search for solutions. That was why the French approach was to seek the modalities and conditions of a withdrawal.

He refused to lay down his office during the trial.

All three have consistently denied knowing what was to happen to the Jews.

The case took a dramatic turn when Maurice Klarsfeld and his wife Beate tried to kidnap Herr Lischka and abduct him to France. They were foiled by passers-by but nevertheless achieved their main aim—to call attention to the delay.

All the same, it was 1975 before the agreement was ratified and another four years were needed for investigations before the trial—one of the last big Nazi crimes trials which West Germany will see—could finally start last October.

If the events preceding the trial were not always to West Germany's credit, this has been amply made up for by the court since. That a case of this kind could be completed in less than four months is rare in West Germany.

Much of the credit is due to the brisk firmness of the judge, Dr Heinz Fashbinder, who would brook no nonsense either from the highly emotional public or from lawyers.

like this any longer only broken china will remain."

Another progressive theologian, Professor Karl Rahner, said in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* today that he saw "no absolute distinction between Catholic dogma in Dr King's writings on the divine nature of Christ, one of the issues for which he was banned."

But he defended the Vatican's right to define what was Catholic teaching and what was not, and differed with Dr King's opinion that a theologian can disagree with the Church and remain a Roman Catholic.

"If I came into absolute conflict with the (Church's) theological boundaries and my conscience would require me to protest decisively, then I would have to take the consequences and say 'well I am no longer a Catholic,'" Professor Rahner concluded.

More than 70 Catholic university professors today appealed to Catholic theological faculties to press for a reversal of the Church's "false decision" to ban Dr King.

Socialists critical of invasion

From Sue Masterman

Vienna, Feb 6

Within the next few weeks members of the Socialist International will launch a series of missions, including sending emissaries to Moscow and Washington, to explore the possibility of recreating an atmosphere of reconciliation and negotiations that can continue.

The delegations included Socialist Party leaders from 27 countries and four continents. A final statement, was issued for the first time in the history of these meetings. The issue of the Russian intervention in Afghanistan dominated the two-day gathering to such an extent that issues such as energy and economy on the official agenda were virtually ignored.

In the final statement, the delegates condemned the Russian intervention in Afghanistan and called for the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops. It added: "A return to the cold war would bring the world to the verge of disaster. It appears that the world is in danger of turning itself to death."

When asked why the Middle East conference was not referred to in the final statement, the Israeli Socialist Party leader, Mr Simon Peres, said: "The Palestinian problem has to be resolved before a stable peace can be established in the Middle East."

Magazine cover picture erased by Mme Giscard

From Ian Murray

Paris, Feb 6

A magazine with a plain white cover on sale in the kiosks here in the morning. It will cost eight francs (about 85p) more than it would have done had it appeared with the planned female nude on the front.

All the cover will show is the magazine's name *Hara Kiri*, the price—20 francs—and the words "cleanse after court seizure order". This phrase does not mean that the French authorities have clamped down on pin-up magazines.

What made the latest issue of the monthly satirical fall foul of the courts was the fact that its front page nude picture was to be a picture of Mme Anne-Aymone Giscard d'Estaing, wife of the French President.

This, the 221st issue, should have appeared last Friday but it reached the distribution agencies at the same time as an order from the Ministry of the Interior arrived at all the prefectures in France giving instructions to the police to be ready to seize it.

The offending cover showed an Arab clutching a nude on his left knee with the headline "France will never be short of petrol. Giscard offers his wife to the emirs".

The rather mournful Arab was supposed to be saying "she is thin and only worth half a barrel". Indeed the photograph of the nude, using Mme Giscard d'Estaing's head, was almost skeletal. Significantly, perhaps, in bringing the case before the courts on Friday, lawyers for the President's wife complained that the picture was offensive not only because of her position but because of her dignity as a woman.

The case was heard on Friday before Mr Simon Rodière, president of the Paris tribunal, who told Mr Georges Bernier, the magazine director, that this time he had gone too far in being "beastly and naughty" in accordance with its own publicity.

Stolen statue found

Straßburg, Feb 6.—A sixteenth-century wood statuette of Christ stolen from Straßburg cathedral three years ago, was found today at the city railway station's left-luggage office. It was carefully wrapped in a plastic bag.

OVERSEAS

Iranian minister is accused of CIA links

Tehran, Feb 6.—Mr Nasser Minachi, the Iranian Information Minister, was arrested today after students occupying the United States embassy here named him as a collaborator with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

His family said a revolutionary guard arrived with a warrant early this morning while a score of guards surrounded his house.

The newspaper *Kayhan* said Mr Minachi, National Guidance (Information) Minister since the revolution, was taken to Evin Prison, in Tehran.

A former colleague of Mr Minachi, the ex-Government spokesman, Mr Abbas Amir Kowsar, is awaiting trial as a CIA collaborator after the embassy students revealed captured documents which they said showed his contacts with American officials.

Mr Minachi is the first minister to be arrested in a general purge of centrists which began last summer.

Kayan quoted the former Prime Minister, Mr Mehdi Bazargan, as saying the action of the students in revealing documents against Mr Minachi was "un-Islamic and illegal".

In a broadcast last night the students quoted from captured documents which they said bore the seal of the CIA. The documents were later displayed on television.

President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, in an interview with *Kayhan*, today accused the students of acting like a government within a government. He was reacting to the news of Mr Minachi's arrest.

President Bani-Sadr, who has been in office for three days, said of the students' broadcast: "It is a self-centred action by the students. How can one rule a country when a group... acts in a self-centred way and behaves like a government within a government?"

Officials at Evin prison said Mr Minachi was being held there for questioning but had not been charged. They said the warrant for his arrest was issued by the Islamic Revolutionary Prosecutor-General's office.—Reuter.

Lord Carrington hopes Britain would join in US military action if needed to protect Gulf

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Possible British military action in concert with the United States and other Western countries to protect the Gulf area from attack by Russia was discussed yesterday by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, with the Commons select committee on foreign affairs.

Sir Anthony Royle, Conservative MP for Richmond upon Thames recalled that President Carter had declared that if there were a further armed incursion by the Soviet Union in the Middle East, America would be prepared to use military force to stop it.

"Would we continue to give our support to our American allies, if the situation arose?" Sir Anthony asked.

Lord Carrington replied that the main threat from Russia was through subversion of existing regimes. "It is subversion that they have to guard against, and, obviously, we have to help them in every way we can," Lord Carrington said.

"But if there were a military invasion of one or other countries, in circumstances which were clearly unprovoked aggres-

sion, and the United States decided—I hope in conjunction with its allies—to take action, I hope we would be amongst those who would do it."

However, he did not think it possible or even desirable to extend the Nato alliance to the Gulf area because it would lose its particular meaning; it was for the West generally to take account of the dangers in that area.

"In my judgment—and my visits to the area reinforce me in this judgment—the threat to the West does not really come from military force," Lord Carrington said. "It does not seem to me that it is very likely that the Soviet Union is going to attack Riyadh with a parachute division or physically occupy Pakistan at the moment."

"If you look at what has happened and what is going on, the Soviet successes in the world have been achieved by subversion in its broadest sense. You subvert the current government and have place-men there of your own. Over a period of time you get a stronger grip on the situation and either you have a puppet there, or you organize things that you get asked in on some spurious excuse."

Bishop quits Rhodesia after 'unjust' British treatment

From Nicholas Ashford

Salisbury, Feb 6

Mrs Donal Lamont, the controversial Roman Catholic Bishop of Umtali, who was for years the scourge of the former white Rhodesian Government, left Salisbury today completing an "unjust restriction on my freedom as a bishop".

Mr Lamont, who was stripped of his Rhodesian citizenship and deported by Mr Ian Smith's Government two years ago, had returned to Rhodesia at the beginning of last month intending to resume his work in his Umtali diocese.

When he arrived in Salisbury on January 5 he was told he could stay in the country for only three days. Later this was extended to 30 days.

He said he had read in the newspapers that a spokesman for Lord Soames, the Governor, had said he could stay for two months and that he could apply for the return of his citizenship. However this information had never been given directly to him or, it seemed, to Rhodesian immigration officials.

Mr Lamont's main complaint was that the Governor had been quick to absolve members of Mr Smith's administration and the judiciary who had supported the Rhodesian Front rebellion against the British Crown, but did not seem prepared to extend the same magnanimity to those who had suffered because of their resistance to the Smith regime.

Zanu claims police harassment

Continued from page 1

At his press conference Mr Mugabe attempted to counter British allegations that Zanu (PF) and its military wing, Zanuwa, were chiefly responsible for acts of intimidation. He gave a list of incidents which, he said, involved his supporters during the past week.

These included an alleged assault on a Zanuwa officer at Fort Victoria and the injuring of three Zanu (PF) candidates in a boat in Shona.

One of the candidates was seriously injured and Mr Mugabe blamed the incidents on the auxiliaries whom, he said, had also been guilty of kidnapping, rape, and other forms of violence.

Zanu (PF) also released a detailed list of instances of alleged police harassment against party supporters and acts of violence by the auxiliaries.

A party spokesman said the list had been submitted to the Governor although this was denied by the Governor's spokesman.

Mr Mugabe said his party wanted to abide by the terms of the Lancaster House agreement so long as other parties were prepared to do the same. "But we will not allow others to commit acts of murder against us," he added that his party had not yet reached the end of its tether.

"We will not take a hasty step," he said.

In the present atmosphere of charges and counter-charges it is becoming increasingly difficult to say who is telling the truth.

Zanu (PF) has compiled a sizable list of incidents of intimidation against its party supporters while the British, the Rhodesians, and Bishop Abel Muzorewa's Umu also have a long list of violence committed by Zanu (PF). Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front have made complaints both against the auxiliaries and against Zanu (PF).

Although the British are becoming increasingly sensitive to criticism about the activities of the auxiliaries they continue to maintain that they do not play a political role and that most of the charges against them are unsubstantiated.

A British source said today that 65 police auxiliary detachments around the country had been checked by the cease-fire monitoring force and in the overwhelming majority of cases they were found to be carrying out their normal duties.

A number of journalists covering the election have seen armed auxiliaries deployed at Umu rallies. They have also heard many complaints from people at the rallies that they were forced to attend the rallies.

British sources said today that two thirds of the detainees held under martial law regulations had now been released.

When the Governor arrived in Harare the figure stood at over 5,000 but this has been reduced to 1,800 which includes about 600 auxiliaries belonging to the Rev Ndabingi Sithole. Last week 597 people were being held on 30 day detention orders under the emergency powers regulations.

Victims' families and accused face each other

Ex-Gestapo chiefs brought to trial

From Patricia Clough

Cologne, Feb 6

The three old men, indistinguishable from any other German old-age pensioners, sat hunched in the dock, silent and impassive.

Opposite them a group of people wearing bright yellow discs with the words *Juif de France* (Jew of France) strain to hear the low voices of a translator and occasionally cast glances of hatred across the court.

At last, 35 years after the end of the war, they are face-to-face before justice; three former leading officers of the Gestapo in Nazi-occupied Paris and the brothers, sisters, children and grandchildren of the 73,000 Jews they are accused of having sent to their deaths in camps and gas chambers.

The verdict, due later this week or next, will end a long and difficult struggle by French Jews, in particular the Paris lawyer, Maître Serge Klarsfeld, to have the men brought to justice.

The principal accused, Kurt Lischka, aged 70, former SS officer and deputy Gestapo

chief in Paris, and Herbert Hagen, aged 66, also of the SS and a former department chief in the Paris Gestapo, had been sentenced in 1950 to hard labour for life by a French military court.

But a German law forbidding the extradition of German nationals to other countries made it impossible for the sentence to be carried out.

Another law, imposed, ironically, by the wartime Allies who feared that the Germans might deal more leniently with war criminals, forbade German justice authorities to retry Nazi criminals sentenced by the Allies.

During this time the accused became exemplary citizens. Herr Lischka as a senior clerk in a Cologne firm and Herr Hagen as a factory director in Westphalia.

The third man, Ernst Heinrichs, a former member of the Gestapo's Jewish office in Paris is the mayor of Bürgstadt in Bavaria and has

refused to lay down his office during the trial.

All three have consistently denied knowing what was to happen to the Jews.

The case took a dramatic turn when Maurice Klarsfeld and his wife Beate tried to kidnap Herr Lischka and abduct him to France. They were foiled by passers-by but nevertheless achieved their main aim—to call attention to the delay.

All the same, it was 1975 before the agreement was ratified and another four years were needed for investigations before the trial—one of the last big Nazi crimes trials which West Germany will see—could finally start last October.

If the events preceding the trial were not always to West Germany's credit, this has been amply made up for by the court since. That a case of this kind could be completed in less than four months is rare in West Germany.

Much of the credit is due to the brisk firmness of the judge, Dr Heinz Fashbinder, who would brook no nonsense either from the highly emotional public or from lawyers.

Dr King criticized by his colleagues

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, Feb 6

Professor Hans Küng, the Swiss theologian recently banned by the Vatican from teaching as a Roman Catholic theologian, said today he had been much saddened by the reaction by seven of his colleagues suggesting that he could not stay on indefinitely at Tübingen Theology Faculty.

Their action damaged his position in his fight to keep his post, Dr Küng said.

He cancelled today's lecture, the last of six, so as to avoid polemics with his colleagues. "I did not want to have to make comments on it from the rostrum," he said. He intends, however, to continue lectures when the next term begins in April.

The declaration by the seven, made without consulting their remaining five colleagues, has split the faculty, with Dr Küng's hitherto appeared behind Dr Küng.

Three weeks ago, they had approved with one vote against and one abstention, a statement calling on the university

authorities to use all legal means at their disposal to enable Dr Küng to keep his post.

Professor Wolfgang Bartholomäus, the dean of the faculty, issued a public statement to the press saying he was "extremely dismayed" at the way the seven had gone about it.

Their move would severely hamper the university's efforts at mediation and was "unlikely to contribute to a solution of the conflict."

The seven professors had declared that "anyone who allows or wishes that a theologian (without the *missio canonica* (church commission) should belong indefinitely to a theological faculty undermines its scientific status as well as its guarantees in the constitution and the concordat."

They criticized Dr Küng's "propaganda campaign" and threats to fight his case through civil courts, and also the Church's investigation methods which "do not correspond to the modern sense of justice and the spirit of Christianity". They said: "If it all goes on

like this any longer only broken china will remain."

Another progressive theologian, Professor Karl Rahner, said in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* today that he saw "no absolute distinction between Catholic dogma in Dr King's writings on the divine nature of Christ, one of the issues for which he was banned."

But he defended the Vatican's right to define what was Catholic teaching and what was not, and differed with Dr King's opinion that a theologian can disagree with the Church and remain a Roman Catholic.

"If I came into absolute conflict with the (Church's) theological boundaries and my conscience would require me to protest decisively, then I would have to take the consequences and say 'well I am no longer a Catholic,'" Professor Rahner concluded.

More than 70 Catholic university professors today appealed to Catholic theological faculties to press for a reversal of the Church's "false decision" to ban Dr King.

Bolshoi teacher and son defect

Tokyo, Feb 6.—A Soviet ballet teacher and her son, a dancer with a visiting Bolshoi company, left for the United States today after defecting to the West.

Sulamit Messerer, a 70-year-old teacher with the company, has been training a Tokyo troupe since November, and her 31-year-old son, Mikhail, arrived here last month on a Bolshoi tour.

Officials of the Japanese Foreign Ministry said the two

defectors were put on board a flight to the United States after confirming their desire to leave and after being interviewed by Soviet Embassy officials.

On January 24 more than 250 members of the Bolshoi company arrived in Japan for a month-long tour.

Mrs Messerer and her son belong to one of the Soviet Union's leading cultural and artistic families.

An outstanding ballet teacher, Mrs Messerer is the aunt of prima ballerina Maya Plisetskaya and the sister of Asaf Messerer, himself still regarded as the main teacher of leading dancers at the Bolshoi although he is 76.

Asaf and Sulamit Messerer formed one of the best-known partnerships at the Bolshoi during the 1930s, dancing together in many leading roles and becoming favourites of Stalin.

Mikhail Messerer has danced several solo roles with the company, but was not regarded as one of its top stars.—Reuter.

Warning to Mrs Suzman

From Ray Kennedy

Cape Town, Feb 6

Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, today warned Mrs Helen Suzman, one of the most respected members of the Opposition, that she could find herself in trouble over her contracts with opponents of the South African Government.

He was speaking in Parliament in Cape Town on disclosures made by Mr Arthur McGivern, a former agent of the Bureau of State Security (Bos).

Mr McGivern said he had intercepted the mail and tapped the telephones of Government critics.

Mrs Suzman has disclosed that

a letter to her from the British MP Mr Winston Churchill was intercepted by Bos. She

OVERSEAS

US-Chinese rapprochement after Afghan affair revives Russia's nightmare of military encirclement

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 6

Of all the Western retaliatory moves against the Russians since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the Kremlin has been above all else by the American military rapprochement with the Chinese.

Administration's recent declaration that it was ready to sell China military support equipment is seen in Moscow as one of the most serious threats to the Soviet Union since the Second World War.

It gives substance to the age-old Russian nightmare of military encirclement by powerful enemies. It negates the strategic gains brought to the Russians by the policy of outflanking China by forming alliances with Vietnam and Laos in the south and by intervention in Afghanistan. It appears to be the start of the American propaganda claim that China, the Chinese in all but name, the sixteenth member of Nato.

Publicly the Russians have treated the matter with routine condemnation, attacking the visit to Peking by Mr. Deng Xiaoping, the American Defence Secretary, with no more venom than normally reserved for any action of the Chinese. But privately the Russians are deeply worried.

Mr. Brezhnev is reported to have given an angry warning, in a talk with M. Chaban-Delmas, that if America armed China with nuclear weapons, the Russians would not hesitate in attacking the Chinese.

France said on Monday that the Soviet Union was attacking the Chinese rapprochement, as seen by Mr. Brown, was to force the Soviet Union to send as large a contingent as possible of Soviet troops to protect its eastern frontiers. The United States therefore did not need a formal military alliance with China, the newspaper went on, because Peking was playing the role assigned to it by the Pentagon's strategic planners.

"The United States is using the present Peking leaders as an instrument in its global hegemonic policy, a policy that is based on anti-Sovietism

common to both the Peking leaders and the United States Administration. It is only within the last two months that Moscow has started regularly discussing the Americans of Hegemonism—code word for Chinese, anti-Soviet policy, which conjures up an almost emotional feeling of antipathy in most Russians.

In 1978 Mr. Brezhnev warned the Carter Administration not to "play the China card," saying this was a short-sighted and dangerous policy that the United States might one day regret. Soviet officials again gave a warning at the end of last year that military cooperation between the two countries would lead to a reassessment of Soviet policy towards the United States.

Moscow watched the normalization of relations between Washington and Peking with suspicion, and the visit of Mr. Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese Premier, Minister, to Washington with increasing alarm.

Soviet policy last year, therefore, concentrated on trying to improve relations first with the West and then with China as a means of making at least one flank a little more secure at the end relations with both worsened.

Although the signing of the SALT agreement last summer—in the eyes of Chinese disapproval—seemed to signal that the security threat from the West would be reduced, the increasing doubtfulness of Senate ratification gave the Russians second thoughts. These were compounded by the refusal of the West to negotiate on the basis of Mr. Brezhnev's offer to reduce troops in East Germany, and the Nato decision to deploy new nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

On the eastern flank, things also went badly. The first serious attempt in 15 years to negotiate with the Chinese on the whole range of issues dividing the two countries ended on November 30 in failure. Relations were not only not improved, but were actually set back.

By the autumn it was clear to the Russians that they had to look to their own interests wherever they saw a threat—and Afghanistan was the main threat at the time. Ironically, it was their action in dealing with this that hastened the American military rapprochement with Peking.

The Russians had long ago shown their concern at military cooperation between China and the Nato alliance. Britain's decision to sell Harrier vertical take-off aircraft to China was for Moscow a test case, and the Russians lobbied very hard—indeed, too hard—to try to prevent this sale.

For Moscow, the threat lay not so much in the Harriers themselves: the proposed sale was too small and the aircraft themselves did not pose a real military danger. But it was the precedent which the Russians disliked, and which they believed was the thin end of the wedge in spite of clear signs that the Americans did not actively encourage the sale. Moscow did not believe that the arrangement would have been possible without the explicit backing of Washington.

There is a view in Moscow, which Russians themselves subscribe to, that American military cooperation with China—however limited and however informal—will strengthen the influence of the hardliners in the Soviet political and military leadership.

The argument runs that, given such a threat, the Soviet Union must now build up its defences with redoubled urgency. It must take more active steps to secure its interests and strategic positions around the world to counter the combined threat from the Chinese and Americans.

An influential section of the Soviet military leadership was known to have had serious doubts about the SALT agreement. Their voice has now been strengthened. What is the value of concluding agreements with the Americans, they say, if the Americans are arming the Chinese with whom the Russians have no agreement?



Mr Ronald Reagan, Republican aspirant for the Presidency, celebrates his sixty-ninth birthday. His wife watches him blow out the candles.

Soviet armour in Kandahar

Kandahar, Feb 6.—An armoured force direct from the Soviet Union has entered Kandahar, Afghanistan's main southern city, in a military buildup only 95 miles from the border with Pakistan.

The column of tanks, armoured cars, personnel carriers and artillery entered Afghanistan from the Soviet Turkistan, drove down the western part of the country and entered Kandahar late on Saturday, local people said.

They also said there had been no significant insurgent activity in the region to explain the build-up. The only sign of dissent was a strike which began last month in Kandahar's bazaars after the earlier arrival of about 1,500 Soviet troops and 16 tanks.

The armoured column was seen while it was on its way to Kandahar, an ancient city through which the armies of Alexander the Great once crossed into India.

A seemingly endless line of olive-coloured vehicles appeared through a rocky mountain pass in a cloud of smoke in a bus watched terrified as the column passed.

It was led by 35 tanks with

alert young central Asian soldiers, covered with dust, sitting on the hatches. Then came about 100 armoured troop carriers, 25 mounted medium-range guns and about 200 lorries carrying field equipment.

Several of the troop carriers broke down on the journey from the Soviet frontier, estimated at two days) and a lorry overturned on the excellent, Soviet-built highway, spilling a cargo of books.

Behind the armour came a convoy of oil tankers and lorries loaded with snow-streaked logs. The biggest Soviet concentration in western and southern Afghanistan is round the air base at Shindand, 70 miles from Herat.

The Soviet-built base provides an awesome spectacle of military might. Parked on the perimeter are the Soviet heavy armoured units, SU 17 fighters and Antonov 22 transports. Next to the airfield is a tented encampment with rows upon rows of ranks, armoured troop carriers and artillery.

Lenin's portrait hangs from a building down the road towards Herat where the Soviet forces have another camp. There was no evidence of

tribal activity in the southern and western parts of the country. As one Afghan said: "The Soviet army doesn't need that kind of armour to fight poorly armed insurgents". Diplomats in Kabul had no immediate explanation for the build-up in Kandahar.

Strike shuts markets: A strike in protest against the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan has shut down markets in Kandahar. It began on January 30.

Cries of Allah-U-Akbar (God is great) echoed in the night as bearded Afghans climbed on to the roofs of their hatched mud houses to rally support against the Soviet-backed government.

Afghan armoured troop carriers patrolled the streets appealing to the city's 200,000 inhabitants to obey the 8.30 pm-4.30 am curfew. Local people said shopkeepers in the five main bazaars and crowded alleys had been threatened with fines of about £11 if they refused to reopen.

The strike, called by Hawkat-E-Islami, the underground insurgent group, began two days after small Soviet forces marched through the city before camping round the airport and at the local Afghan army headquarters.

Jesuits condemn Prague's campaign against priests

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Feb 6

The Jesuits today accuse the Czechoslovak authorities of a Jesuit priest, and Maria Kozova, a Catholic, in Presov. Father Formanek is accused of celebrating Mass in private houses without the consent of the authorities.

The interrogations have seriously damaged his health. He is also accused of having condemned communist atheism as a sin against God and against religion; of having led books on religion; and of having been in contact with religious centres of the imperialist West.

In fact his only contact with the West is said to have been to ask some Jesuits in Canada to send him religious books. He was sentenced in 1956 to five years imprisonment. To be imprisoned again, according to the statement, would be the death of him.

Vatican relations: Mr Matej Lucan, a Czechoslovak Deputy Prime Minister, today promised that his Government was "ready to resolve certain open questions" in its relations with the Vatican.

He said his Government had shown willingness to solve and settle open issues before, but that they needed time and patience.—AP.

Nato plan for Greek reintegration

From Mario Modiano
Athens, Feb 6

There are strong probabilities that the problem of Nato air defence in the Aegean, which is blocking the military reintegration of Greece in the alliance, could be resolved by restoring the arrangements that existed for that area before Greece withdrew in 1974.

These probabilities have encouraged optimism in diplomatic circles here that efforts to devise a formula acceptable both to Greece and Turkey, could lead to agreement within the next few weeks.

The idea is to overcome Turkey's objections to the assignment of Aegean air defence on Nato's behalf exclusively to the Greeks, as well as Greek objections to sharing this responsibility (because it inevitably includes the defence of sovereign Greek islands) with the Turkish Air Force.

This could be achieved, according to reliable diplomatic sources, by reconstituting the Joint Air Command, the Sixth Allied Tactical Force, which had been under an American Air Force general but was transferred to a Turkish general after the Greek withdrawal.

Seven embassy hostages freed

Madrid, Feb 6.—The Left-wing militants who occupied the Spanish Embassy in San Salvador yesterday, released seven of their 12 hostages today, the Spanish Government said.

The Foreign Ministry said the only hostages remaining, all Spanish, were Señor Sanchez Alamos, the Ambassador, another diplomat and three staff. All were being well treated and were in no danger.—Reuters.

March turns back at Kampuchea border

Aranyaprathet, Thailand, Feb 6.—More than 150 politicians, doctors, charity workers and celebrities from Europe and the United States marched to the Kampuchean border today but were turned back by the Thai Government.

The leaders of the controversial "March for the survival of Kampuchea" appealed through loudspeakers for permission to cross the road bridge on the border town of Aranyaprathet to distribute supplies. The only response from

World View

by Arrigo Levi

An over pessimistic attitude to Europe

For long periods, Europe does not seem to need a real, self-sufficient and all-embracing foreign policy. They usual cocktail, made up of one third American, one third EEC (mostly trade-and-aid) and one third national foreign policies, seems to be sufficient to maintain a stable regional and global environment, allowing the nations of Europe to pursue freely their search for prosperity.

Then, at irregular intervals, something happens that makes the environment look suddenly unsafe and unstable, to the point of threatening the independence and security of Europe. When such dangers arise, Europe usually turns to attempt by Europe to try and solve its own way, in protection of its own "vital interests", was Suez 1956, almost a quarter of a century ago. It was a dismal failure.

Since then, Europe has never acted alone, but it has often been grudging and reluctant in its support of American actions, on Vietnam, on the Middle East, now of Afghanistan. However, in an alliance of free nations, divergences are inevitable, and they can sometimes be useful.

Is Europe's present "separation" from America fundamentally different from what happened before? Some observers believe it is, in that Russia is now acquiring a psychological and even an economic hold over Europe, which is on its way to becoming "Finlandized". This view seems to me to be over-pessimistic. The divergence between American and European attitudes is partly explained by the excessive variations in American policy and can to a large extent be reconciled. I do not believe that there is any real threat to the end of the great Western Alliance.

But the danger exists. And anyway the problem remains whether the lack of a genuine European foreign policy and the traditional rather loose arrangements for coordinating American and European policies will be adequate for the new tensions of the 80s.

These tensions are rooted in facts which will not change overnight. The accumulation of military power, pursued by the Russians at great cost for many years, has finally made of the Soviet Union a global superpower: there was only one, now there are two.

The fear of the West, which is aimed only at preventing the Soviet Union from becoming the dominant superpower, will not undo what has been done. But this changes the nature of the East-West confrontation as it existed during the first three decades after the war.

Also, the coming generational change in the Soviet leadership will not be accompanied quickly or easily, and this will be a factor of uncertainty.

Russia's behaviour, against that changed power balance. Nor will the deep weaknesses of the Soviet imperial system, its inability to accommodate diversification, its totalitarianism, or its disastrous management of the economy (the Soviet Union's rate of growth has fallen in 1979 to the dismal level of 1.94%, quickly dropping to 1.5% in 1980) be quite a few years a more expansionist and unpredictable Soviet foreign policy, for both "defensive" and "offensive" as well as ideological reasons.

This new situation is the result of gradual changes, which have been going on for a long time: we only see them more clearly after the Afghan crisis.

The problem today (as Helmut Sonnenfeldt put it in a recent Chatham House lecture), is whether the containment of the "new" Soviet Union as a global power, can still be left mainly to the United States. Sonnenfeldt finds it "unimaginable" and "unusual" that Europe be excluded from the physical, military protection of their "vital interests" outside Europe.

But many unimaginable and unnatural things happen. What if Europeans today no longer had any "vital interests", meaning those interests for which a nation is ready to go to war? This cannot be excluded, nor can it easily be changed. But even so, cannot a stronger and better "European" foreign policy be devised, in order to complement and strengthen, and some times to correct, America's foreign policy?

This problem was raised by the British and Italian Prime Ministers at their recent meeting. They declared that Europe's political cooperation in a crisis must be strengthened (it is good to hear Britain take such a firm European stand), while new means must be found to improve Euro-American consultations in an emergency. This is

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Congress asked to delay bribes scandal hearings

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 6

Attempts by leaders of Congress to resolve promptly the country's latest public corruption scandal are being thwarted by the Justice Department.

Since details of the case were first disclosed by the press last weekend, leaders of both the Senate and the House of Representatives have wanted their own committees to investigate alleged misconduct by some of their colleagues as swiftly as possible to limit the damage to the prestige of Congress during an election year.

Eight members of Congress, including one senator, are alleged to have been involved in the scandal, as well as about 20 local public officials.

But at a meeting of the House of Representatives ethics committee today, a senior Justice Department official urged the committee to delay inquiries until the full criminal process had been concluded.

A letter signed by Mr Benjamin Civiletti, the Attorney General, and read to the committee said that a Congressional inquiry at this stage might create problems for the legal

Peking proposes a united front to avert danger of world war

From David Bonavia
Hongkong, Feb 6

China has dropped its previous insistence that a third world war is inevitable and hopes to join forces with other countries—including those in Nato—to prevent such a catastrophe.

This is one of the main points in a recent speech by Mr Deng Xiaoping, the senior Deputy Prime Minister, to high-ranking Communist Party officials. Details of the speech, which has not been published officially, have recently become available in Hongkong.

The speech was made in preparation for what are expected to be important meetings of the Party Central Committee and the National People's Congress (parliament) later this year. These meetings will be asked to discuss and endorse various important policies of the party leadership, including its approach to the crisis in Afghanistan.

Mr Deng is understood to have proposed that China help form a united front of as many countries as possible to avert the danger of world war. The previous Chinese line was that a big war could only be postponed, or at best headed off by the world revolution.

The extreme danger to the

West's oil supplies, and likely growth of Soviet global influence, are considered to be behind the change of heart in Peking which sees Nato as the main line of defence against further Soviet expansion. At the same time, Mr Deng is reported to have said that the "liberation" of Taiwan need not necessarily take place in the 1980s, and that economic progress in the People's Republic should take priority over plans for an armed invasion of the island.

Mr Deng is alleged to have said that China's influence in the world will depend on the success of its drive for economic and technological modernization, the main priority of the present leadership.

One of the most important developments expected to result from the convening of the Central Committee and the National People's Congress this year is a change of faces in the ruling Politburo.

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Maoris jostle Governor of New Zealand

Whangarei, New Zealand, Feb 6.—Sir Keith Holyoake, New Zealand's Governor-General, was pushed and jostled by Maori and European protesters at a ceremony celebrating Waitangi Day in the Bay of Islands near here today.

As he was leaving the national Marae (ceremonial congress), he was thrust back by the protesters and nearly fell to the ground. The 74-year-old prime minister, who appeared to be shaken by the incident, said he was unmoved by it.

The protesters claim that the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi under which some Maori chiefs recognized British sovereignty have not been observed over the years.

During the last 140 years, the Maoris have lost most of their ancestral lands through sales by chiefs over the heads of their tribesmen and through wars followed by confiscations.

Waitangi Day, which marks the signing of the treaty, is New Zealand's national day and a public holiday.—Reuters.

Tunisians claim capture of Gafsa attack leader

Tunis, Feb 6.—The suspected leader of the attack on the Tunisian military town of Gafsa was captured today, the Tunisian news agency reported.

Ahmed Mergheni from Gafsa, appeared to be the principal agent behind the attack 11 days ago, the agency said, quoting a reliable source. (A report on Sunday from Gafsa said the attacker's leader had died in the fighting.)

The agency also reported the arrest of two other attackers with Mr Mergheni.

Meanwhile, a reliable source here said that Sheikh Larbi al-Akremi, an accomplice of Ezzedine Sharif, known as "one-eyed Sharif", was arrested on Monday while attempting to cross from Tunisia into Libya.

He is said to have smuggled arms for the attackers across the Tunisian-Algerian border.

Sheikh Larbi al-Akremi and Mr Sharif, who has also been captured since taking part in the attack, were given heavy sentences for a plot against President Habib Bourguiba in December 1962.

Meanwhile, the Algerian daily *Ach-Shaab*, referring to the French military support rushed in against the Gafsa attack, today said: "No country thinking in terms of independence can stay silent over this kind of intervention close to its coast or borders" above all "if the intervention is part of a vast plan to smokescreen events in Iran and Afghanistan".

France had reacted in a "doubtful" fashion, and its show of naval force along the coast of Libya (which is said by Tunisia to have backed an attempted coup against the Bourguiba regime at Gafsa) was an example of neo-colonialist "divide and rule" strategy, the paper said.

The French intervention was part of "the Western attempt to increase international tension", it said.

Meanwhile in Paris, the return of the French Ambassador in Tripoli, recalled yesterday after the sacking by Libyan demonstrators of the French embassy and consulate, was said to be imminent.—Agence France-Presse.

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Phnom Penh not yet ready for treaty with Moscow

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, Feb 6

Kampuchea was not yet ready to sign a formal treaty of friendship with the Russians, along the lines of those the Soviet Union had concluded with Vietnam and Afghanistan, Mr Hun Sen, the Kampuchean Foreign Minister, said today in Moscow.

He said the Phnom Penh Government's relations with the Soviet Union were "very close" and predicted they would strengthen further, the question of a formal treaty of friendship might be brought up in the future when conditions were ripe.

Speaking at a press conference at the end of an official visit here by a Kampuchean delegation, headed by Mr Heng Samrin, the Kampuchean leader, Mr Hun Sen admitted that it would be very difficult for the Phnom Penh Government to survive and function without the support of the Soviet Union and other "brotherly socialist countries".

The Soviet Union had given great help to Kampuchea and had met all his country's requests for economic and military assistance, he added.

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With strife-torn Labour at the crossroads, manifesto urges a purge of the membership

The manifesto of the Campaign for Labour Victory paints a bleak picture of the party's future unless it undergoes "radical reassessment". After a huge electoral rebuff, declining membership, growing indebtedness and damaging internal strife are outward signs of a party which had held office for 11 of the last 15 years.

The manifesto states: "The Labour Party is at the crossroads. As participation by Labour voters in the internal democracy and financing of the party declined, it had become prey to accusations of being a helpless client of the special pleading of the trade unions."

Small constituency party memberships had become more vulnerable to unrepresentative cliques, usually of the far left, but sometimes of the "Tammany Hall" right, whose behaviour alienated both traditional and potential Labour supporters.

It was a recipe for ossification of policy, not radical approaches, financial and organizational bankruptcy and for cumulative electoral decline.

"Policy would be decided by a conference which had ceased to command the respect as a democratic forum for Labour voters' views. The national executive committee was elected by a process which failed to provide a proper balance of opinions, and candidates were beginning to be selected who were so unattractive to Labour voters, because of their extreme views, that they could not win even the safest Labour seats."

Against that background, the manifesto recommends a restructured and reformed NEC; a target membership of one million by 1983, removing party membership from those who supported or belonged to groups whose aims were not consistent with those of the party; party members to be involved in a one member, one vote basis in the selection and reselection of parliamentary candidates and the election of delegates to the annual conference. The party leader, it suggests, should continue to be elected by the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP).

Party membership: The document sug-

gests the need for a hard look at the whole democratic structure of the party. If it was to be a party of mass membership, its initial entry fee must be cheap and kept at 25p a month.

The trade unions must assume a greater responsibility for recruitment. Political levy payers should be encouraged to become full members. The party should aim for a membership of one million by 1983. Each constituency party should aim for a target of 5 per cent of the Labour vote in its constituency by the end of next year and 10 per cent by the end of 1983.

The manifesto also calls for a reform of the NEC must remove party membership from those "who support or belong to any organization which has aims or objectives not consistent with those of the Labour Party."

Major decisions in each constituency party, on the selection and reselection of candidates, on constituency or parliamentary candidates, and the delegates, should be decided at meetings open to all party members of one year's standing in that constituency.

These changes would bring some "genuine democracy" into the party's functioning at constituency level.

Policy making: Constituency parties, affiliated organizations, the TUC and the Parliamentary Labour Party should be involved from the outset. Use should be made of the regional party conferences for policy discussions. The party conference should spend less time in plenary session and more in study groups discussing policy in length.

National Executive Committee: The manifesto's proposals would broaden and deepen member involvement in the selection of candidates and the process of policy formulation.

The constituency section almost always consisted of MPs to the exclusion of grass-roots constituency activists. The women's section was simply an anachronism and the seat for the Young Socialists largely over-represented a very small group and simply provided a seat for the Militant Tendency on the NEC.

The Campaign for Labour Victory did

not seek an NEC in which one point of view was permanently in the majority, but one which genuinely represented every major strand in the party.

The manifesto recommends that the NEC should be composed of:

- 1 Eighteen members nominated by trade unions from among their duly nominated delegates and elected by their delegations to the annual party conference.
- 2 Eleven members, one from each region to the party conference, elected by the regional party conference.
- 3 Eligibility for nomination shall be two years membership of a constituency Labour party in the region.
- 4 Members of the British and European Parliaments shall be ineligible for nomination. Each CLP shall be entitled to make one nomination. The regional office shall conduct a postal ballot by circulating a statement not exceeding one thousand words prepared by each candidate in sufficient numbers for circulation by each CLP with the notice to members of the meeting of members to select and mandate their conference delegate. At that meeting a postal ballot for the regional representative to the NEC shall be conducted and the votes cast sent together with a record of the attendance at the meeting (and, perhaps, a certificate signed by the constituency chairman and secretary to the meeting) to the regional office.
- 5 Seven members of the PLP to include the leader and deputy leader of the party ex-officio and five members to be elected by the Parliamentary Labour Party.
- 6 One member elected from among members of Labour groups or local authorities at the Local Government Conference.
- 7 One member elected by and from the delegates to the Young Socialist Conference.
- 8 One member elected by and from the delegates appointed from Socialist, Co-operative and other organizations at the annual party conference.

The increased representation of the unions would ensure they maintained a major presence on the NEC and the delegates appointed from Socialist, Co-operative and other organizations at the annual party conference.

The proposals would increase the size of the NEC from 29 to 40.

Party Leader: Electing a leader of the party from outside Parliament, perhaps by electing a party chairman, had some appeal but could be a source of division and friction. On balance the present system produced a result acceptable to the party and should be continued.

Finance, Agents and Organization: It suggests an appeal to the trade unions to establish an Agents Development Fund to meet 100 per cent of a new agency's costs in the first year, 80 per cent in the second and 60 per cent in the third until, after five years, it was self-financing.

The party service must be made a priority in the party's expenditure. A more professional approach to fund-raising for this purpose was needed locally and nationally.

In its conclusion the document says: "Time is short if the party is to be put right by the next general election. The proposals required humbly, not arrogantly. If we are to restore Labour's fortunes, we must set aside the narrow fanaticism of the true believer."

Leader, page 17

The Future of the Labour Party, Campaign for Labour Victory, 15a Abbeyville Road, London SW4 9LA. 50p.

Craig Seton

The way to curry favour at the dinner table

There are three ways, at least, of making curry. A hard way, a simpler way, and an easy way. There is also pouring a tin of curry sauce over things and calling it curry, and there is stirring a spoon or two of ginger cat coloured powder into stew of some sort and saying it is curry. The last two can be very tasty indeed, and there is no law to say they cannot be called curry, but they are not what I call curries.

Proper curries, if the subtle and infinitely varied dishes of the Indian sub-continent can be gathered up into one phrase, are so widely misunderstood that for those who have not already been seduced by the delights of Indian cooking, it is difficult to know where to begin. Except perhaps to say that anyone who believes that curry has to be hot to be any good, and who has not sampled any of the dishes of fresh meat and vegetables delicately spiced to bring out the best of the original materials rather than drowning them, has something to look forward to.

Pepper water shops have a lot to answer for in convincing nice people that curry is ghashly

lumps of "heaven knows what" sinking in fatty lakes of "goodness this is hot". Of course there are genuine curries that take the top of your head off, especially, I believe, from the south of India. But speaking as one who does not care to persevere too freely over the distasteful table, my choice, especially when cooking for the unconvinced, will always be dishes which are well flavoured and mild.

Ten years ago it could be difficult to find many of the spices commonly used in Indian cooking. Now every supermarket seems to sell a selection, and most Indian and Pakistani grocers carry an even wider variety, often less expensively packaged. Basmati rice, if you can find it, is so much better than any other kind with curry that it is worth a search. It has a nutty flavour of its own and is much more difficult than other sorts to reduce to rice pudding by mistake.

Just because electrical appliances are not two a penny in the far corners of rural India there is no reason to grind all the spices laboriously by hand. That really is the hard way of doing things. The simpler way is to use ready ground spices and any gadgets which can use

The Times Cook



Shona Crawford Poole

fully be employed. The easy way, and no bad idea for the inexperienced, those in a hurry, or anyone who is wary of the outlay on spices with a limited shelf life (like coffee they lose their flavour faster once ground), is to use curry paste. Indian grocers generally offer a selection of curry pastes and good advice too. But Elsenham Foods, better known for jams and chutney, make a range of three which are sold throughout Britain. For the name of the nearest stockist write to Elsenham Quality Foods, Hertfordshire.

The following recipes are a boon to cook now and eat later people. All the main dishes can be cooked in advance, cooled or frozen, and reheated most successfully.

Lamb in dark almond sauce

Serves four to six

900g (2lb) cubed shoulder or leg of lamb, or stewing beef

6 tablespoons vegetable oil, preferably peanut

5 whole cloves

1 or 2 dried chilli peppers (optional)

12 whole black peppercorns

6 whole cardamoms

1 tablespoon ground cumin

2 tablespoons ground coriander

4 tablespoons ground or chopped almonds

6 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped

15g (1oz) fresh green ginger, peeled and coarsely chopped

1 teaspoon ground turmeric

1 teaspoon ground nutmeg or clove

225g (8oz) onions, finely chopped

3 tablespoons natural yogurt

225g (8oz) fresh or tinned tomatoes, peeled and coarsely chopped

Salt to taste

Heat the oil in a heavy frying pan and add the cloves, chillies, peppercorns and cardamom pods, and fry them for a moment or two on a medium heat. Add about a third of the meat and fry it in the spiced oil until it is browned on all sides. Remove the meat to a heavy fireproof casserole, leaving the spices in the oil, and brown the remainder of the meat in the same way. Put the cumin, coriander and almonds in another small, heavy pan, and cook them dry on a medium heat until the almonds turn a rich coffee colour.

Combine the roasted spices with the whole spices from the oil, the garlic, ginger, turmeric and nutmeg or mace. Blend the mixture until smooth using an electric blender or pestle and mortar, and adding up to 120 ml (4 fl oz) water to make a thick paste.

The Times Cook

Cook the onions in the oil remaining in the frying pan until they are lightly browned. Add the spice paste and cook on a medium heat for a few minutes, stirring constantly. Stir in the yoghurt a little at a time, and the tomatoes, and continue to cook the mixture for a few minutes more. Add salt to taste. Add the sauce to the meat in the casserole, stir well, cover and cook on a low heat until the meat is tender, 1 to 2 hours depending on the cut used. Alternatively, cook the casserole in a cool oven (150°C/300°F, gas mark 2) for about 2 hours.

Chicken curry

Serves four

1 fresh chicken, weighing about 1.35 kg (3 lbs)

4 tablespoons vegetable oil, preferably peanut

340 g (12 oz) onions, finely chopped

1 clove garlic, finely chopped

1 to 2 tablespoons curry paste

2 tomatoes, fresh or tinned, peeled and chopped

150 ml (1 pint) natural yogurt

1 tablespoon cornflour

Salt

Divide the chicken into eight portions and dry them well. Heat the oil in a heavy fireproof casserole and fry the chicken pieces for a few minutes, until they are golden on all sides. Remove the chicken and keep it warm.

Add the onion to the oil remaining in the casserole and fry slowly until it is transparent, but not coloured. Add the garlic and fry for a minute more. Stir in the curry paste and fry on a gentle heat for two or three minutes, without allowing it to catch or burn. Tip the chicken back into the casserole and stir it in the spiced oil mixture until it is well coated.

Now add the tomatoes, yoghurt mixed with cornflour, and about 150 ml (1 pint) of water or stock. Bring to the boil, lower the heat, and simmer gently, covered, for about 1½ hours. Check from time to time that the sauce does not become too dry or stick. Alternatively, cook the curry in a cool oven (150°C/300°F, gas mark 2) for 1½ to 2 hours. If it becomes too dry, or if you want more sauce, add more water. Salt the dish about half way through cooking when it is easier to judge how much is needed.

Serve either curry with plainly boiled basmati rice, or a lightly spiced pilau.

Pilau

Serves four to six

450g (1 lb) basmati or long grain rice

30 g (1 oz) clarified or ordinary butter

1 tablespoon ground turmeric

6 whole cloves

6 whole cardamom pods

1 teaspoon caraway seeds

10 cm (4 inch) cinnamon stick, broken in pieces, or 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Salt to taste

Combine all the ingredients and stir until the sugar has dissolved completely. Pour the mixture into a flat-bottomed container, cover and freeze until it has the consistency of heavy slush. Tip it into a chilled bowl and beat the mixture vigorously to break up the ice crystals. Return it to the container and freeze until firm, beating once more if necessary. Ripen the ice in the refrigerator for half an hour or more before serving.

The Times Cook

Wash the rice in cold water and leave it to soak while you prepare the spices.

Melt the butter in a heavy saucepan with a well-fitting lid, and add the turmeric, cloves, cardamoms, caraway seeds and cinnamon. Stir the spices about for a minute or two on a medium heat, making sure the turmeric does not burn which would give the rice an acrid flavour. Drain the rice and add it to the spiced butter. Stir the rice in the fat until it is well coated and add about 450 ml (1 pint) cold water. Add salt and bring to the boil. Immediately the rice boils, turn the heat very low and clamp on the lid. Cook the rice for about 10 minutes, or until all the water has absorbed and each grain is tender and separate.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

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OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN (01-240 1000) (Globe Theatre credit card 035 9031) THE ROYAL OPERA. Sat. 7.30. P.M. Don Giovanni. Sun. 7.30. P.M. Don Giovanni. Sat. 7.30. P.M. Don Giovanni. Sun. 7.30. P.M. Don Giovanni.

THEATRES

ADRIAN PHILIP. 01-436 7611. Sat. 7.30. P.M. Don Giovanni. Sun. 7.30. P.M. Don Giovanni. Sat. 7.30. P.M. Don Giovanni. Sun. 7.30. P.M. Don Giovanni.

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CINEMAS

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NEW BOOKS

George's black Grail

Smiley's People

By John Le Carré

(Hodder and Stoughton, £5.95)

Being bad at puzzles, I come late to Le Carré. I did read *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* with enjoyment when it first appeared, and *The Naive and Sentimental Lover*, his unsuccessful but perhaps salutary attempt to escape from spy fiction in 1971. Last autumn, having watched the first three episodes of *Tinker, Tailor and the Spy* on television with diminishing enthusiasm as it became clear that the Circus added up to little more than a kind of closed order manned by bitterly ill-mannered monks ("Don't go on me, George") I put the novel itself aside for some very distant date, and picked up *The Honourable Schoolboy*, which I had never read either, instead.

Lightning conversion followed. By the time, four weeks later, that I glanced idly at the papers to discover that Bill Haydon was Karla's Mole, I knew—also long after the rest of the world, no doubt that for its energy, compassion, rich and overwhelming sweep of character and action *The Honourable Schoolboy* was simply one of the finest English novels of the Seventies. Ironic, mournful and introspective, *Smiley's People* complements it beautifully. Its subject is the private failures of successful men.

Prised yet again from his "dubious retirement" poring over German baroque poetry in the London Library "trying" (suggestively enough) "to distinguish true passion from the tiresome literary convention of the period"—George Smiley is ordered to clean up after the death of an old man, an agent, on Hampstead Heath. A young lorry-driver carries a basket of oranges to Hamburg, and a woman called Ostrakova is run down within an inch of her life in a quiet Paris street. From these three threads, George pulls up a trail that leads to the fatal weakness of the hitherto invincible Karla himself, Smiley's "black Grail", the menacing Moscow adversary who had once described him as "quite good".

Smiley's revenge takes him

not only to Paris and Hamburg, but to South London, Cornwall, Oxfordshire, Schleswig-Holstein, Bernese, where the crucial breakthrough is made, and to the Warschauerbrücke in Berlin, one of the lesser known but most dramatic crossings between East and West, the only one over water, where, in ten pages of perfect excitement, the novel ends. Each setting—particularly, the lorry-driver's new family and house in Charlton—is seen and described with a precision and plain gravity reminiscent, like so much in the book, of Graham Greene. It is puzzling, though, to read of chestnut trees and washing on the street in Westbourne Terrace which, though certainly shabby-grand and an excellent place for old spies, has neither.

Smiley's People, like *The Human Factor*, explores the desolate territory in common between the ideological combatants of the Cold War: the search for alternative disciplines and what Smiley calls "distant churches"—Party, Circus, marriage, children—to replace the universal godlessness; the longing for new certainties to stand in for the lost illusions of love and life. It rings with the gentle discords of self-analysis and imperfectly anaesthetized grief, and once again the failure of Smiley's marriage pulses like a wound that will not heal. The brotherhood of men betrayed swells by at least five new members: the themes of domestic treachery and men's failings have become positively deafening.

Yet they remain elusive. Ann Smiley is the kind of woman who not only leaves her husband regularly but gives him records of Mahler to read while she is away, but she remains, as in the earlier novels, undefined on the edge. Le Carré is much better with earth mothers and good sports: the delightful, resilient Ostrakova, the dying old Moscow-watcher Connie Sachs. Never quite at ease in *The Honourable Schoolboy*, Connie is here soaked in whisky to sun the pain, surrounded by pets and clutter of every kind, and loved by a

younger woman who once ran amok in the cyber-room at the Circus; raking her memory like an old fire, she gives George the one clue he needs, and goes out with all guns blazing. Perfectly placed half way through, this magnificent, curiously Falstaffian scene is the emotional heart of the book.

The way is clear for the kill. "Twin Cities, we used to say you were, you and Karla, two halves of the same apple". Connie had told him to his great anger, but the idea stays with him to the end. To know one's adversary is to know oneself, and victory, when it comes, is both melancholy and incomplete.

The Circus novels are composing a kind of *roman-fleuve* in which themes of loyalty, betrayal, innocence, memory and time recur at regular intervals like *Leitmotiven*, and familiar figures undergo superficial metamorphosis like humours from *A Dance to the Music of Time*. Chief, and most powerful, among these, in *Smiley's People* are fly Toby Esterhase, now become Mr Benati who caters for Arab tastes in fine art at the naughty end of Bond Street, and Oliver Lacom, "Whitehall's Head Preceptor" to the Intelligence Services, who seems to me the most marvellous study in fatuousness by an English novelist since Powell perfected *Wilderpool* himself.

I rejoice in Lacom's every appearance, in his preposterousness, in his easy assumption of ambition's latest jargon ("I'm not without clout, which ever you read me!") and even in the pair of horns which Le Carré has now stuck so mercilessly upon his head. Whatever happened to the adoring and doe-eyed child-wife and mother described with such relish in *The Honourable Schoolboy*? She can't be with the riding instructor, and as her defection leaves Lacom only mildly disturbed, she was obviously right to do so. It is a joy to find someone in the half-world of Smiley and Connie and Karla with such a fat head and skin that he cannot feel pain.

Michael Ratcliffe



This huge stone monster, carved from the natural rock, lurks in the woods that surround the Palazzo Orsini at Bomarzo. Photographs by Enzo Ragazzini, assembled and introduced by Theo Crosby, and published by Pentagram Design, £2.

Fiction

In Evil Hour

By Gabriel Garcia Marquez

(Cape, £5.50)

The Silent Areas

By Elaine Feinstein

(Hutchinson, £5.95)

Friends in High Places

By Lucianne Goldberg and Sondra Tih Robinson

(Macmillan, £6.95)

The Roses of Picardie

By Simon Raven

(Blond & Briggs, £6.95)

In Evil Hour (*La Mala Hora*) was first published in Spanish in 1958, although there had been an earlier version which Gabriel Garcia Marquez repudiated. The village-state of Macondo is roused out of its monotony by the appearance of a woman who brings with her the promise of murder and the promise of more violence. The mayor and the priest agree that action must be taken. Patrols are sent out: a victim is found. To what purpose? So Garcia Marquez's purpose is to tell us that the world is a place where the most convincing characters inhabit a society aware of its own decomposition. Underlying the marvellous wit, the inimitable humour and the superbly paced dialogue, there is the author's own anger, his bitter contempt for the political exigencies which make for injustice and corruption. Yet, alongside the most savage ironies, there are felicities of description which suggest that the author is not only a writer but a philosopher. Even by Garcia Marquez's own standards, *In Evil Hour* is a splendid achievement.

Elaine Feinstein is another sensitive writer who sets up an imaginative tension between her characters and her readers which demands positive participation. *The Silent Areas* of this admirable collection of stories are fables of the spirit, lit by strange, often menacing, slants of light, in which people brood and conspire with their most secret fears, desires or frustrations. Mrs Feinstein's subtle and economic technique allows the reader to draw private conclusions—one of the surviving privileges of a thoughtful novelist. "The Grateful Dead" and "Ambition" are enigmatic but brilliant stories, while "Strangers" and "Other People" and "Spire" are charged with bitter and profound humanity. There is also one especially chilling item, less a fairy tale than a parable, "Hansel and Gretel". In complete control of her material, Elaine Feinstein presents us with complex, incomplete, essentially lonely characters who live close to the tears of things.

Nobody could accuse the five women at the core (in this context an almost embarrassing word) of the novel by Lucianne Goldberg and Sondra Tih Robinson of an excess of sublimity in their relationships. Given that unicorns and red cross knights would have had a thin time in the Kennedy Camelot, the redoubtable stamina with which this quintet operates their sublimity in high and a good many other places is breathtaking. (The coital bliss of one of them is much enhanced by the distant declamation: *Ich bin ein Berliner*.) Their careers in politics and journalism are interwoven and finally critically linked when one of them plagiarizes from her alcoholic husband a Pulitzer Prize story involving political scandal and the commodity celebrated in their favourite expulsive threat: to hit each other.

A thoroughly readable novel, *Friends in High Places* might have been a very good one if the authors had given more thought to its structure which is clumsy and to a variety in narrative which is lacking. Each of five carefully different women (three likeable, one a harpy, and a gorgon) is presented in exactly the same way. Opportunities for exciting variations of technique are lost. Nevertheless, there are many moments of real beauty and originality, with plenty of lively, sometimes funny, dialogue.

The sexual activity in the above novel is important, indeed essential, to the plot. In Simon Raven's *The Roses of Picardie* it is, for the most part, peripheral, but it is a considerable achievement to give us a coherent account of this grand old nuisance, related by birth and by marriage to ancient landed families in Ireland's once powerful Protestant Ascendancy. She was the apotheosis of "badness". Third of five wilful sisters (and a brother whom she embarrassed horribly in her mutual old age, when he was

Stuart Evans

Science fiction

Annihilation Factor
Empire of Two Worlds
The Seed of Evil

By Barrington J. Bayley

(Allison and Busby, £5.95 each)

Although he has been writing for a couple of decades it is only now being appreciated what an SF master is Mr Bayley, just how fertile the invention that can reinforce some wonderfully bizarre, often bleak, concepts. Recognition of his talent has been impeding for so long because, to say the least, he is a writer who is not afraid to risk his necks with such obviously original work. It is good news that Allison and Busby intend publishing more

of his books. These three are typical of a unique atmosphere that lingers long in the mind after the pell-mell narrative has vanished over the horizon.

Annihilation Factor concerns galactic kingdoms at civil war, threatened by the Patch, a life-draining force of energy; the factions should be united at the common peril; instead they try to use it to involve the other side. In *Empire of Two Worlds* the henchman of a ruthless dictator realises, only to regret, that his master's plan is to use him to kill the cat of his innocence. Nobody learns.

All three books are written in an energetic style, but all evoke ideas beyond that simple impact. They are mechanisms which restrain the choice of the human spirit with wonder and with no rancour: strangeness suffices all. I recommend them without reservation for their communication of wonder. And, in *The Seed of Evil*, there

Political faction

Communism in Spain
In the Franco era

The Autobiography of Federico Sanchez

By Jorge Semprun

(Harvester Press, £10.50)

Anglo-Saxon publishers have a knack of finding really dull titles for interesting foreign books. Fritz Fischer's *Griff nach de Weltmacht* (literal translation "Grab for World Power") was very staidly rendered *Germany's aims in the first world war*. Almost equally deadly was the translation of Carlos Rangel's brilliant essay about Latin America, *De buen salvaje a buen revolucionario* (from noble savage to good revolutionary), as *The Latin Americans, a skilful way of ensuring that no one read the book*. Now a little far behind comes Harvester Press's tedious title *Communism in Spain in the Franco era* for Jorge Semprun's new book. Although it too will probably prevent many copies of the book from being sold, the real title is lightly rendered on the cover too, though not the spine, and it is perhaps a little (and only a little) more forgivable, since the original was *Autobiografía de Federico Sanchez*, at first sight a fairly innocuous sounding title.

The irony implicit in it as a title that it appeared in a Spain at a time when, two years ago, the country was already sufficed with autobiographies of men and women forced to be silent during the age of Franco. Here appeared a book purporting to be the just another such book though of a very ordinary sounding person, Sanchez being a common name. But a few communists, and ex-communists, knew that "Federico

Sanchez" was the nom du guerre or more nom du conspuration, of the communist party's official underground leader in Madrid in the late 1950s. A few too knew that the name concealed the identity of Jorge Semprun, who, since the 1960s, had been, as a film maker and writer—the author of the screenplay of *Z* and *L'avenue de la guerre est finie*, brilliant political films in which Yves Montand would appear as a dejected hero of our times, *tout vu, tout déçu* and, doubtless, incarnating the real character of the brilliant Semprun himself. What a pity that Harvester Press could not have seen the point of all this more and found a more subtle title for a fascinating book!

Semprun was the son of the republican ambassador to the Netherlands during the civil war and the grandson of Antonio Maura, the famous conservative Prime Minister of Spain in the early part of this century. He was an upper-class communist, therefore, but nevertheless worked as a trusted and effective full-time revolutionary for over twenty years. He was sent to Buchenwald in 1943, the journey to which he later made the subject of a prize-winning novel. Semprun was expelled from the communist party in 1964 on a somewhat tactical issue but has since turned strongly against communism (or, anyway, the communist leaders) and is probably now rather apolitical. *Autobiografía de Federico Sanchez*, as I shall call it, is one of the best ever reconstructions of the secret world of communist conspiracies and exile, or treachery and pedantry close together. Much of the writing is brilliant and the eccentricities has rendered the eccentricities

and experimental qualities of Semprun's prose rather well. The repetitive but sometimes compelling nature of communist behaviour is well indicated by a series of literary devices which usually come off pretty well in English as in Spanish. As a work of history, Semprun's book has its shortcomings. It does not purport actually to be a work of history but a novel. That enabled the author to make free with historical fact in a disconcerting manner. In the hands of anyone else less gifted than Semprun, this would be enough to make the book worthless. Since, on the whole, Semprun is so concerned to create atmosphere and not a continuous narrative, that perhaps does not matter as it might seem. However, it is as well to realize that several of the author's old colleagues in the communist party have vigorously and understandably complained at being alleged to have taken a certain position at a certain meeting when, in fact, they were in Moscow or Paris or Prague. Spanish novelists have also complained when Semprun received the Planeta prize which normally goes to a novel. At a time when in Britain it is becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish between the fiction departments and the non-fiction departments of most book shops—all the books are about spies—and the novels seem to get nearer the truth than the biographies—this confusion, which will well to Semprun's benefit, should not disturb us over much, though it would certainly be appalling if the genre caught on in less sensitive hands.

Hugh Thomas

Grand old nuisance

An Unhusbanded Life

Charlotte Despard: Suffragette, Socialist and Sinn Féiner

By Andro Linklater

(Hutchinson, £9.95)

"For badness" is a phrase used judiciously in Ireland to explain, but not exonerate, wilful behaviour. It is unlisted in any lexicon of dialect; and it conveys a meaning easily lost on your English ear, sir. At the response to a querulous "Now why in the world would she do that?" it signifies motives fuelled by high octane principle mixed with intuitive moral certainty. Actions taken "for badness" tend to be combative in the pursuit of right and justice; likely to cause God knows how much nuisance for somebody; and please God, not me.

The phrase simultaneously expresses affectionate admiration, impudent irritation, and amusement. Andro Linklater's carefully worked and well-written biography of Charlotte Despard, indomitable campaigner for social and political justice across a galaxy of causes, is just such an amalgam. It is a considerable achievement to give us a coherent account of this grand old nuisance, related by birth and by marriage to ancient landed families in Ireland's once powerful Protestant Ascendancy. She was the apotheosis of "badness". Third of five wilful sisters (and a brother whom she embarrassed horribly in her mutual old age, when he was

ex-Viceroy of Ireland and she a fanatical supporter of Irish Republicans who rejected the 1921 Treaty in favour of running battle with the forces of the new Irish state), Charlotte French's childhood was consigned to governesses and the Early Victorian era, and her marriage was no parental love. Marriage in 1870 to Maximilian Despard provided a young woman already half-drowning in turbulent ideas. There were no children. Charlotte wrote several novels, mostly published; all dreadful. When she became "unhusbanded", which is to say, irreproachably widowed with enough money to make independence stick, Max's moderating influence evaporated almost at once. She unleashed her energies and her abiding devotion to Shelley's vision of womanhood and political Utopia on the wretchedly poor, exploited Irish families in the Lambeth slums of the 1890s. From there, moving in an easy leap to fifty years' worth of furious political activism. Her list of credulities, grafted one upon another with some, but not much concern for the philosophical uproar in her head, reads like a lunatic litany of contradictions: Radicalism, Socialism, Communism, Theosophist, spiritualist, Catholic convert; social worker, Suffragette and Sinn Féiner. All these causes Charlotte Despard took to her warm heart. Though she did not

proselytize her religious convictions, she made up for this uncharacteristic discretion by promoting the rest more vigorously. She made it to Hol-joway; she went where the action was in Dublin and Belfast; she visited the Soviet Union and believed every word she was told. If Andro Linklater's mind has bogged at his subject's capacity for believing like Lewis Carroll's White Queen, as many as six impossible things before breakfast, it shows only in his understandable reluctance to restrain a somewhat sensationalist style: the range of adjectives is worthy of a sports writer. But he steadies himself and his reader by means of well-researched essays on the punitive intention and terrible social effects of the 1834 Poor Law; and the brightly coloured patterns of women's suffrage movements.

Mr Linklater also joins the rest of us who try, and fail, to take wholly impartial looks at Ireland. In all these things he does more than set Charlotte Despard's personal chaos of caring in an ordered context: the book is more than a shilling life. It reaffirms that sensibility is at least as important as sense; and that this sort of "badness" is, exciting. She was an outrageous, indefatigable extremist; and she caused a lot of trouble. She was also extremely rich, eccentric, well-mannered, and every inch a lady.

Gay Firth

Rights and wrongs

The Image of the King

By Richard Ollard

(Hodder & Stoughton, £7.95)

Charles I, the Martyr, Charles II the Merry Monarch: the image of the king is constant down the years. Richard Ollard's excellent and entertaining study of the making and its consequences in the study of history takes Charles I and Charles II as examples of how the popular myth survives, regardless of the scholar and the historian, let alone the facts. The two kings are an uneasy pair, for all that they were father and son. As a man, Charles I was an admirable king, chaste, even puritanical, the finest connoisseur of painting that ever sat on the English throne, amiable, his work dignified and unassuming, far removed from the unseemly chaos of his father's establishments. He was a virtuous man, and a high-minded one. In a telling phrase, Richard Ollard says it is a fact of common observation that high-minded persons are frequently unscrupulous. This is not to suggest that Charles I was a pious fraud. The devotion and love shown to him by his friends and even, on occasion, by his enemies, is proof that this was not so. It does indicate that, for a cause, Charles I could bend principles with the best of them.

Stuart Evans

There are 52 pages devoted to Charles I, and twice as many to his son. The author traces the outline of Charles's exile and reign, while concentrating on the character of the king, and the view that people took of him. While still a boy, Charles II had seen his world torn apart, his father killed, his mother a pensioner of her nephew. He knew all the humiliations of a poor relation, in addition to the distasteful alliances with people he disliked and despised. It taught him to trust no one, and made him the complex character that he was.

Most unfortunately, Richard Ollard detests Charles II. Even his good qualities, his steady nerve, his excellent judgment

of men, his dislike of repression, his freedom of thought, his personal charm and amiability, are turned against him. There were terrible injustices during the reign of Charles II and his treatment of Clarendon, his old friend and faithful servant, leaves a very nasty taste in the mouth, but Mr Ollard writes as though no leading figure in politics had laid down his life for his life either before or since. It is interesting to discover that Charles II can still raise such strong passions.

The book ends with an interesting chapter on contemporary views of the king, from Halifax and Bishop Burnet, and an analysis of the Whig view of the Stuarts, followed by the revival of romantic Jacobitism. The image remains, as so ably summed up in 1666 and *All That*: the Roundheads were right but repulsive; the Cavaliers were wrong, but romantic.

Phippa Toomey

The Iron War, by Colin Kapp (Dobson, £4.95). Being the adventures of Dam Stormdragon, who has to be a fighter with that sort of name. He is, sentenced to death he is offered the choice of painful iron trans-formation, to become a Ter-eran warrior. Characterization by numbers, but a splendidly hectic pace.

Tom Hutchinson

Winchester Cathedral 1079-1979, by Frederick Bussy (Paul Cave, £10). Ely, Durham, Lincoln, Exeter... the cathedrals of England are our greatest buildings architecturally, historically, and spiritually. We all have our favourites, but the majestic grey mass of Winchester Cathedral rising suddenly and stunningly out of the heart of the City must figure in most people's top ten. In celebration of its ninth century Winchester's Canon Residuary, a learned mole in the Cathedral's library and archives, has written this glossy history with 123 illustrations in colour and black-and-white, and a terse formal foreword by the Queen. It is meticulous in its treatment of the beloved building from West Front to Lady Chapel, but also includes agreeable human interest about Hugh the Mason, Jane Austen, and many others who have lived and died in the mighty shadow of the building that looked down on us up to heaven for nine centuries.

THIS WEEK

S.S. Praver on
'Smiley's People'Hugh Lloyd-Jones on
Greek Tragedy
at The AldwychHarold Bloom on
Seamus HeaneyPlus
The Vikings
Bhutto
Rousseau
Colin McInnes
and
Geoffrey Grigson's Viewpoint

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Paul Theroux, *The Sunday Times*

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Sir Geoffrey Jackson, *Evening Standard*

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LOCAL RADIO

Radio has rediscovered its essential virtues of cheapness, simplicity and flexibility, and has begun the descent from the Olympian heights of Mount Reith to a sunny spot nearer the town square, writes Alan Hamilton

Professor Max Beloff, writing in the *defunct BBC Quarterly* as long ago as 1952, remarked with prophetic insight: "At a time when about every tendency seems to be working in favour of the masses and against the individual, the radio, essentially an organ of mass-communication, restores the direct sense of personal contact between individuals." However true that may have been in 1952, it is a great deal more so in 1980.

Radio is experiencing a renaissance, but it is different from the kind that reigned supreme in the days before television arrived to swallow up talent and resources like a factory trawler hoovering herrings. Radio has rediscovered its essential virtues of cheapness, simplicity and flexibility, and has begun the descent from the Olympian heights of Mount Reith to a sunny spot nearer the town square, if not actually the parish pump.

There are at present 39 local radio stations on the air in the United Kingdom, with at least 25 more in the pipeline, and a possible eventual total of more than 150. Concurrent with the rise of local voices on the air has been a quite dramatic increase in the ownership of radio sets, from 39 million in 1975 to more than 52 million today—2.5 sets a household.

During the 1970s, the amount of time we spent tuned in remained more or less static at about nine hours a week, but towards the end of the decade the total numbers listening began to drop, the obvious victims being the BBC networks. But that overall trend has now almost certainly been reversed.

Local radio could be said to have begun with 2LO at Savoy Hill in 1923; but that was really a national station with a very small transmitter. True local radio, again under the auspices of the BBC, properly began at Leicester in 1967, since then it has developed into one of our fastest growth industries and, at least for the independent stations, almost a licence to print money.

At present about two thirds of the population is within hailing range of a local radio station, and several of the larger conurbations enjoy the luxury of competing BBC and independent Broadcasting Authority, basing in the approval of the Annan report and the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries, has ambitious plans for the 1980s, intending to reach 90 per cent of the population with perhaps as many as 110 stations. Provided the IBA can acquire the necessary VHF frequency allocations, there will be few constraints

on the growth of independent radio.

How small can a station be and remain viable? The forthcoming independent station at Inverness, serving a widely scattered population of 150,000, is probably approaching the lower limit.

The position of the BBC is altogether different and more difficult. There is no longer a radio licence fee, so BBC local radio finance has to be allocated from a pool that is dominated by television, and ultimately controlled by a parliament that often seems hostile to the corporation. What is more, BBC local radio is competing, not only with independent local radio, but with its own national networks. There is room for rationalization here, and it will undoubtedly come, when the BBC has some money to spare and when it can get its hands on some more VHF networks.

For the moment, because of the continued uncertainty it is forced to live under, the BBC is reserved about its long-term local radio plans; it is unlikely, however, that it will operate more than 35 or 40 local stations for the foreseeable future.

In the early days of local radio, it was suggested that some of the BBC's costs might be offset by the appropriate local council, as the radio was providing a useful public service. In-

stead a grant was accepted in one case, but the BBC quickly withdrew when it felt the local council was trying to interfere with its jealously-guarded editorial integrity. But councils may have a future role to play in the running of very small scale community radio stations, an area which both the BBC and the IBA feel is inappropriate for them to enter.

No such worries trouble independent local radio. The 19 stations on the air generated more than £40m in income last year, and the largest of them was able to show a gross profit of £3m on a turnover of £8m.

If the organization of the service of radio has been rationalized and improved, the same cannot necessarily be said for the state of the air. Local stations are still feeling their way towards the ideal editorial balance, which lies somewhere between the extremes of some minority rights output and the equal, if louder, tedium of endless recorded music.

There are, however, some hopeful pointers. The IBA has been markedly stricter in its guidelines for local radio output than it was at the advent of commercial television, with the result that, on the whole, the independent stations have not fallen completely for the temptation of unremitting disc jockey shows which comes from considerably more generous agreements on "needle time" than those imposed on the BBC.

On the other side, BBC

local output, at present trailing sadly behind the independents in listening figures, will be greatly enhanced if the BBC can harness some of the excellence of its network radio and channel it into the local stations. The long-term scheme is for one network, almost certainly Radio 4, to be available only on the local stations, with each station opting out for a large part of the day with its own material. Something of the kind already operates in Scotland, with local stations like Radio Highland acting as an occasional local window in the output of BBC Radio Scotland.

But without doubt local radio is at its best when it is truly local: Radio Humberside bringing the first news of the Flixborough explosion; Radio Forth clearing its airwaves for continuous blizzard reports. At the same time, many excellent locally-produced programmes deserve a wider audience, and the IBA, with its national network like the BBC to call upon, is anxious that good local programmes with a wider interest should be offered to other stations. Extra revenue from rebroadcasting should be an incentive to make better programmes.

For all its faults, local radio has had a healthy start and should enjoy a healthy future playing a valuable social role. Lord Grade would not dare repeat the remark against the BBC he made at the advent of commercial television: "Let them do the Shakespeare; we'll do the entertaining."

BBC

- existing:
- 1 Radio Carlisle
 - 2 Radio Newcastle
 - 3 Radio Cleveland
 - 4 Radio Leeds
 - 5 Radio Blackburn
 - 6 Radio Humberside
 - 7 Radio Merseyside
 - 8 Radio Manchester
 - 9 Radio Sheffield
 - 10 Radio Stoke-on-Trent
 - 11 Radio Derby
 - 12 Radio Nottingham
 - 13 Radio Leicester
 - 14 Radio Birmingham
 - 15 Radio Oxford
 - 16 Radio Bristol
 - 17 Radio London
 - 18 Radio Medway
 - 19 Radio Solent
 - 20 Radio Brighton

proposed:

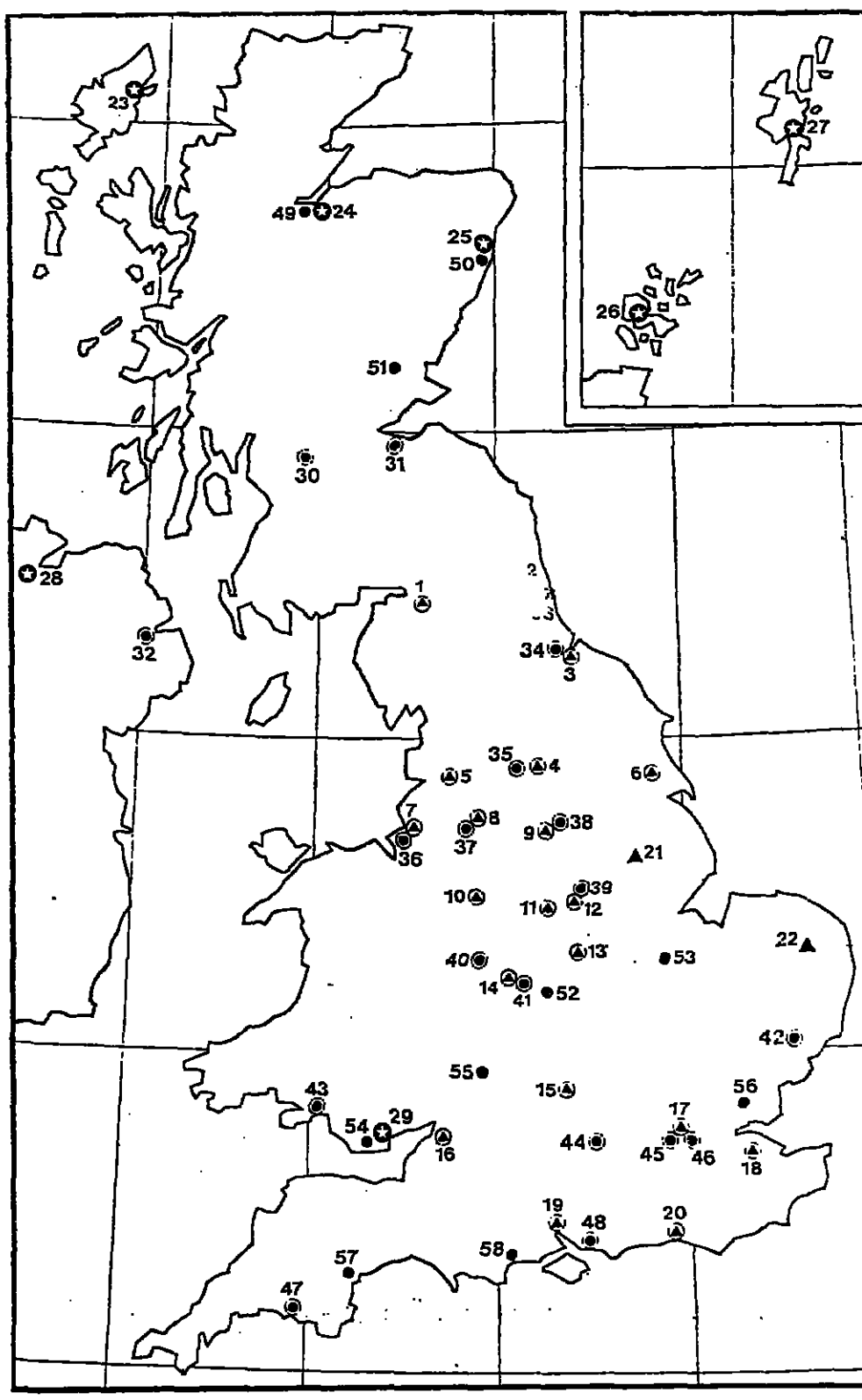
- 21 Radio Lincoln
- 22 Radio Norfolk
- 23 regional and community:
- 24 Radio Nan Eilean
- 25 Radio Highland
- 26 Radio Aberdeen
- 27 Radio Orkney
- 28 Radio Shetland
- 29 Radio Forth
- 30 Radio Wales

ILR

- existing:
- 31 Radio Clyde
 - 32 Radio Forth
 - 33 Downtown Radio
 - 34 Metro Radio
 - 35 Radio Tees
 - 36 Pennine Radio
 - 37 Radio City
 - 38 Piccadilly Radio
 - 39 Radio Hallam
 - 40 Radio Trent
 - 41 Beacon Radio
 - 42 BRMB
 - 43 Radio Orwell
 - 44 Swansea Sound
 - 45 Thames Valley
 - 46 London Broadcasting Co.
 - 47 Plymouth Sound
 - 48 Radio Victory

proposed:

- 49 Inverness
- 50 Aberdeen
- 51 Dundee/Perth
- 52 Coventry
- 53 Peterborough
- 54 Cardiff
- 55 Gloucester/Cheltenham
- 56 Chelmsford/Southend
- 57 Exeter/Torbay
- 58 Bournemouth



Dr. Leadbetter

How a new station goes on the air

When the managing director of Midland Community Radio, Mr John Bradford, took on the job of launching Coventry's commercial radio station, one of the first things he discovered was that half the population of the area the station would cover lived outside the city. "Not only that," he resented being branded as being part of the population of Coventry; so naming the station became a particular problem," Mr Bradford said.

The answer was to promote through the local press the idea that people might like to suggest names for the station. And the did. Names like Leofric, Godiva, Peeping Tom and even Radio As You Like It poured in. Some suggested Three Spires and others Phoenix, but the title finally decided was Mercia Sound.

The station comes on the air in mid-May and will probably be the twenty-first in the independent local radio network. For 10 days

before it can be heard (by potentially, 690,000 people) the broadcasters will talk narcissistically to themselves—what a newspaper would call a "dummy run". Mr Bradford has conceived and directed the launch. He came over from Radio Tees and at 34 he is—and was—the youngest managing director of independent broadcasting has ever had. The advertising rates were published last December and the market,

he says, reacted reassuringly well.

There was a certain amount of scepticism about the future, since predictions about the 1980s were hardly reassuring, but at today's prices he reckons the Coventry station will produce an annual revenue of between £800,000 and £1m a year and will cost between £750,000 and £850,000 to run. The Independent Broadcasting Authority, which must approve the station's name and its senior appointments, will want £40,000 in primary rental.

The site of the station was fairly easy to find: a former working men's club in The Butts area, the large bar being easy to convert into studios, reception and office areas.

"We were looking," Mr Bradford said, "for something of the order of 7,000 sq ft with good road access to the city centre and of sound construction, and we had to make sure there was not so much traffic noise as to make conversation impossible. To be honest, I think we were lucky to find this—it seemed almost ideal."

They were against taking space in an office block development because they were anxious to create an identity—somewhere like "under the clock at Waterloo Station" a place where people could meet. And that is what they have, a large and attractive reception area from which the "on-air" studios can be seen by the public; upstairs, the sales and administration offices and the editorial area with telephones and tape recorders for the reporting staff.

Senior appointments have been made. Mr Ian Rufus, formerly news editor of Radio Hallam, the Sheffield and Rotherham station, is the programme controller; and the news editor, answerable to him, is Mr Michael Henfield, former deputy news editor of the Birmingham station. Their sales controller was the regional sales organizer for ATV, and from the BBC the station recruited its chief engineer, who will be spending £120,000 to get the station on the air. He will never have so much to spend again, at least not at this station.

There will be five journalists and a full-time presentation staff of six. Four months before the mid-May start they had four people working; by mid-April they will have 35, nearly the full complement.

"The next major decision after staff is to appoint a company responsible for your national selling operation in the London marketplace," Mr Bradford told me. "It is clearly not efficient for 60 or 70 separate companies to be representing their individual interests. With the sole exception of Capital, the formula adopted is to have a single London representative to

look after more than one station.

Finally, a firm must be found to equip the premises with everything from tape recorders to microphones; the IBA lays down stringent technical conditions and Mr Bradford selected a Windsor firm that had a proved record in equipping half-a-dozen stations.

Mr Bradford met the group bidding for the Coventry station for the first time at Christmas 1978. Its chairman is Mr J. B. Bunterworth, Vice-Chancellor of Warwick University. A number of local companies—a brewery, a garage, Co-op stores, newspapers—were invited to become underwriting shareholders. The group's application went to the IBA with an underwritten capitalization of £600,000, a guarantee of a bank overdraft facility and a promise that 50 per cent of the capital would be made available by public subscription.

The application was successful and the offer of contract made last May. Mr Bradford was then at the edge of the company, talking with them about the nature of the application. He was managing director of Radio Tees, having set up that company in 1974.

The application process was in three stages: written application, local interview by IBA representatives and finally an interview with the full authority. Mr Bradford joined the company full time in September. He has studied the area carefully and regards his job as a great challenge. There are no strong local loyalties—few people he spoke to were born in the district. This is why he considers a radio station to be more vital there than it was on Teesside.

Shift workers and the working wives all have to be considered in the pattern of broadcasting, so the station will broadcast from 5 am until midnight. There will be pop music and phone-ins, tea-shirts and car stickers, because Mr Bradford knows from experience that it has to sell like soap powder, and—no matter how good the powder—with an attractive packaging it can be hard to sell.

For a large number of hopefuls, the station's appeal lay in the opportunities it presented to potential broadcasters. Last month station officials interviewed just a few of the people who sent in demonstration tapes. These came flooding in, 1,500 of them, and almost all of the senders made it clear that they were ambitious to become disc-jockeys. Few will make it.

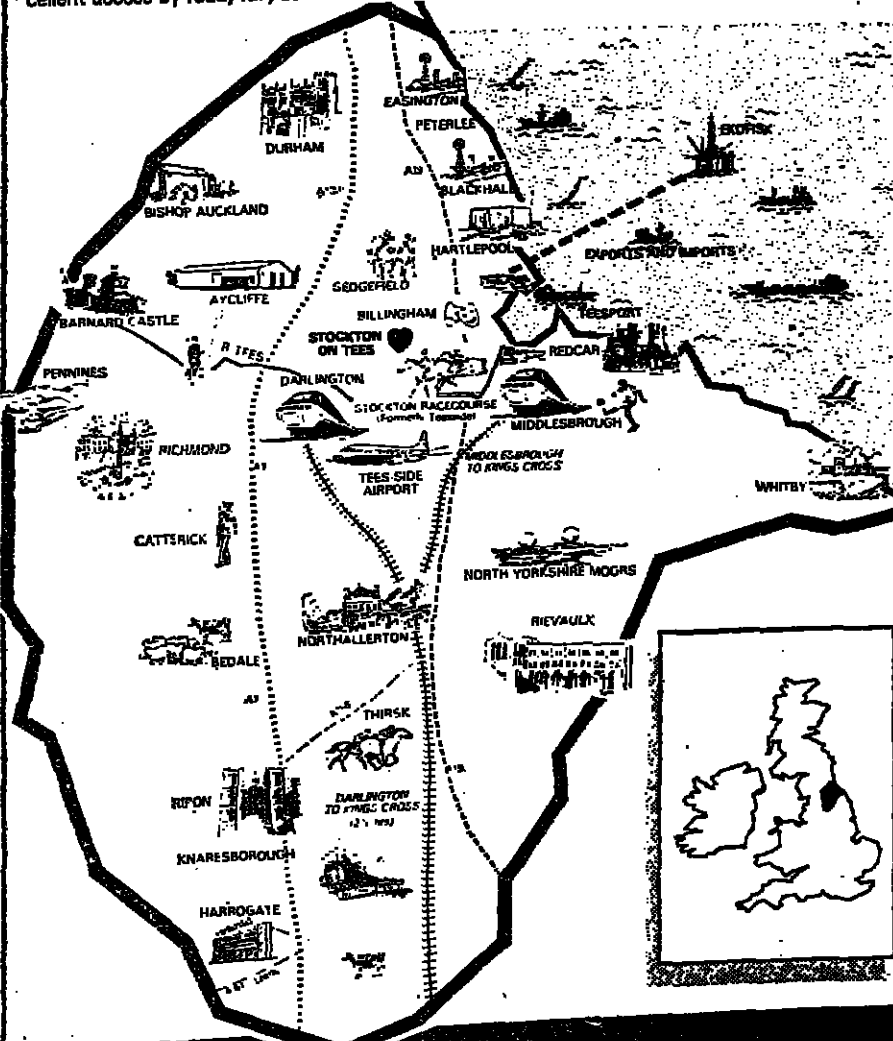
The station will have to begin sounding as professional as though it had always been broadcasting. Listeners, Mr Bradford points out, are very sophisticated. "They won't allow you to iron out your problems on their airwaves."

Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

This is Europe's most dynamic industrial area

... and Britain's most beautiful area

With a population of 1.4 million and a huge annual spending power, its importance cannot be ignored. The Radio Tees transmission area boasts a wealth of activity, from the Eklöf oil pipeline travelling 220 miles to the massive refinery at the mouth of the River Tees, with the vast chemical and petro-chemical complexes of British Petroleum, I.C.I., Monsanto, Phillips Petroleum, Shell and Rohm and Haas, to the long-established farming, mining, engineering and steel industries. In the Radio Tees area, there is no shortage of leisure activity, with six racecourses, theatres, sports centres and the most beautiful and unspoiled scenery in the country. Take all this and the excellent access by road, rail, sea and air and its importance cannot be ignored!



This is the RADIO TEES area!

95 VHF AND 257 METRES MEDIUM WAVE 24 HOURS A DAY

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Telephone 0642 615333

NATIONAL SALES
Capital Air Services Ltd.,
48 Leicester Square,
London WC2H 7PP, telephone 01 333 7733

Capital Radio - more than all the hits.

Capital Radio is the largest of all Britain's Independent Local Radio stations and, according to independent research* is the station to which Londoners listen most. Broadcasting 24 hours a day, it has built its weekly listenership of over 5 million Londoners by providing the best in a wide range of contemporary music and a great deal more besides.

*ICRAR May 1978.

Current Affairs

NEWS. Local, national and international bulletins every half-hour throughout the day every day. Travel reports feature the "Flying Eye"—London's only traffic spotter plane.

LONDON TODAY. Half-hour programme of interviews and reports every weekday evening at 7 pm on London topics of the day.

PARTY PIECES. Weekly review of the parliamentary week by London M.P.s, including live excerpts from Westminster.

SUNDAY SOAPBOX. Listeners are given access to the station's biggest audience of the week to express their viewpoint on a subject which matters to them.

SPECIAL REPORTS. In-depth analysis of controversial issues by investigative reporter Jane Walsley, whose recent highly acclaimed radio documentaries have covered housing in London and tax evasion.

CAPITAL QUESTION. Capital uses its computer and a leading research company to take the pulse of London when matters of public debate arise. Latest subject: should sport and politics be kept apart?

CAPITAL COMMENTARY. Weekly analysis of news and current affairs by Lord George Brown.

HEADLINE DEBATE. Monthly debate on contemporary issues broadcast live from the Capital foyer. This month's topic: "Should we afford the Welfare State?"

WHAT'S ON. Capital presenters keep their listeners fully informed about what's happening each day throughout the area.

TODAY'S TOPIC. A new and expert guests help Londoners "do it themselves". This month's topic: "How to Take Care of Yourself".

Classical Music

THE COLLECTION. Capital's weekly programme of classical recitals and recordings attracts more listeners in London than any programme on Radio 3. Robin Kay reviews the best new classical albums each month.

GREAT SOLOISTS. The world's most distinguished soloists will be recorded in concert this year by Capital for exclusive broadcast by ILR stations throughout the country.

CONCERTS. The station sponsors and broadcasts concerts of classical music by the Wren Orchestra and other prominent orchestras and musicians throughout the year and in all parts of our listening area.

Drama and the Arts

CAPITAL PLAYHOUSE. Monthly presentation of original radio plays.

GLA PLAY AWARDS. The station co-sponsored with the Greater London Arts Association the recently highly successful Play Awards for new writers of stage and radio drama.

ALTERNATIVES. Capital's lively review of all branches of the arts in London each Sunday evening.

DUKE OF YORKS. This fine London theatre is being re-opened this month, restored and managed by Capital Radio, its new owners, who are pledged to maintain it as a live theatre.

Community Care

HELPLINE. London's only 24 hour telephone advice and referral service is fully organised and staffed by Capital. In its 3 years of operation, Helpline has handled over 325,500 calls from Londoners requiring help or information.

MAINLINE KIOSK. A new kiosk at Euston Station provides a direct link to Helpline to advise those youngsters who arrive in London with neither a job nor a place to live.

JOB FINDER. Capital uses its influence with the young to help them find work. Operated in conjunction with the Manpower Services Commission, the Job Finder service found jobs for over 2,500 unemployed young Londoners last year.

HELP A LONDON CHILD. This Appeal on behalf of London's needy children raised over £100,000 last year for distribution through relief agencies and child welfare organisations in the Capital area. Help A London Child features throughout our Easter weekend broadcasting.

KIDSLINE. School holiday telephone information service for parents and children looking for something to do or somewhere to go.

FLATSHARE. Three of the station's most popular shows ask for and receive details of shared accommodation available for listeners. A complete list of addresses is published each week.

CAPITAL RADIO 194

Broadcasting to over 5 million Londoners 24 hours a day on 194m Medium Wave (1943 kHz) and 95.6 MHz VHF Stereo.

LOCAL RADIO

Profiles of two pioneers by Kenneth Gosling

Producer of 800 programmes

It was when John Whitney was 17 that, with a head full of ideas about the way radio should be run, he turned up at the BBC prepared to give anyone ready to listen the benefit of his views. But the commissioner (the right word, he insists) at the entrance turned him away.

"After that," he said, "I decided that since no one wanted to employ me, and my headmaster had said I might make good as a gardener, I would have to employ myself." So he did, having at school conjured sounds from the ether by winding wire around the cardboard cores of toilet rolls. It was the mystery of the process which enthralled him.

He realized, with some shrewdness at that age, that people loved hearing themselves, so he recorded bar-mitzvahs and sold the recordings to the organizers for a guinea a time. Then the future managing director of Capital Radio, who is also chairman of the Association of Independent Radio Contractors (AIRC), started recording even bigger events for sponsors like the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Pyle and Grand, had a staff of 35 and bought a magnificent board-



room table from Liberty's. The whole thing crashed when television came along.

"But don't forget that Harry Alan Towers did it first," Mr Whitney said, giving credit where it was

due over the gleaming boardroom table at Euston Tower.

The rest is radio history: he created the largest independent commercial radio production house in Britain and directed and produced more than 800 programmes for major advertisers on Luxembourg and overseas stations. Then television claimed his attention, and from 1958 he devised and wrote many series, including *The Plane-Makers* and *The Power Game*.

But radio was still in his blood, and in 1963 he obtained the licence to operate a station on the island of Montserrat in the Leeward Islands; and the following year co-founded with Philip Wadlow and John Gorn the Local Radio Association.

"We proceeded to set up a commercial radio lobby, and more and more influence was brought to bear on this subject of having independent local radio in this country as had everyone else in the world," he said. "Radio has been at the heart of all my aspirations."

After more contributions to television he set up Local Radio Services in 1970 to advertise consortiums intending to make application for

radio station franchises in local radio, and in 1973 he joined Capital Radio in his present post.

Everything is going forward as he always hoped, except that the new stations have not become available as early as he would have liked. The "ultimate success story" would be to "achieve 100 per cent or 98 per cent coverage of the population," he said. "We would hope to see 60 stations open by the end of 1984."

The AIRC has regular meetings and it links with the Independent Broadcasting Authority. It plays an important role in labour relations and has just appointed a full-time adviser, Douglas Fox. It has surveyed audiences once a year, but in future will do the job three times a year. It has just concluded a three-year agreement with the National Union of Journalists—a pointer, Mr Whitney says, to the way the industry is maturing.

It is, he thinks, a shining example at a time when signs of decline are everywhere; it has developed without cost to the exchequer and is a singular achievement when even a spare part is hard to come by.

Knowing your audience

John Whitney and Michael Barton have the same object—to get local radio to be as many parts of the country as possible. For Michael Barton, controller of BBC local radio, the problem is basically finance. It is said that for the BBC, it is part of a larger picture which includes both network radio and television.



Mr Barton, who is 48, is seven months younger than Mr Whitney. He was born in Yorkshire and joined the BBC after a spell with the advertising department of Smith & Nephew, the Elastoplast company. He went in as a "knob-twiddler" or studio manager, being responsible for such things as sound effects.

He found that the opportunity in those days—about 1953—to work on a variety of programmes was rewarding. "I was dipping into things like *Children's Hour* on radio and documentaries for television," he said.

He emerged from this experience as a senior talks producer in Manchester. He was, in fact, specializing more in radio, and when the chance came to move to local radio it was, he says, a

natural thing to do—something which excited him. "I put my cap in the ring and up came Sheffield."

He took over Radio Sheffield, the second station to be established in 1967 following Leicester, because he believed that although it was a two-year experiment, it was a risk worth taking and likely to succeed.

Those were pioneering

days, and only half the potential audience could hear the broadcasts. "But it was rewarding because for the first time in my life in broadcasting I was aware of the audience I was relating to," he said. "Obviously the kind of programmes reflected our own backgrounds—we tended to go for well-constructed but compartmentalized programmes." Over the years these have become the sort of programme in which a great deal can happen in a two to three-hour session.

When commercial radio dawned in 1973 Mr Barton was apprehensive about the possibility of a diminishing audience; but he was encouraged to find that audiences actually grew. This says something, he believes, for the distinctive nature of the two operations. They are complementary—the BBC having a strong claim to community involvement and a much stronger speech content.

He does not dismiss commercial radio as some do, as "cheap and horrible and unnecessary." It is relevant, he is aware, to a different, much younger audience in a totally different way. Where the two are most likely to compete is in news and sport.

"I believe the direction we have moved in is the right one," he said. "I do not say there is no place for network broadcasting, but the familiarity, the friendliness, the immediacy of local radio can be achieved only that way."

Places for future development had been identified. Mr Barton said. "But we are caught in this whole financial conundrum: can we afford to develop until we know where we stand on pay negotiations, et cetera? In times of financial restraint it seems the only way to achieve any movement is to transfer resources from regional to local radio."

He took a hard look at the future and came up with the answer, as far as BBC local radio is concerned, that financial cuts are unavoidable.

"Three years ago we had a plan for an additional 45 stations, identifying communities in much more precise terms," Mr Barton said. "We are clearly now going to have to compromise on that number and go for slightly larger areas with fewer stations. That is something we are giving a lot of thought to, but we are having to take a realistic view of what is financially possible."



Recording an advertising jingle in a commercial radio station.

Rates are low but costs are not

It can take three or four weeks to produce a radio advertisement that needs a minute or less to half-listen to. On the other hand, that urgent sales pitch, delivered so often with a mid-Atlantic accent, may be the work of a couple of hours. National newspapers demand this instant service. If the *Daily Bugle* or the *Sunday Clarion* wishes to inform you that tomorrow's paper will contain an exclusive story, it is not going to give you time to telephone the opposition.

When radio stations sell the air times themselves, they will provide studios, copywriters and production teams to put the message together. This is the way most local advertisements originate. One reason is that the High Street firm, perhaps using radio for the first time, is disinclined to spend much on production in addition to the cost of the time. Although companies are not too happy about it, a keen salesman sometimes trims the cost of production to win an order.

In other cases, especially where a national campaign is involved, the work is handled by advertising agencies, who charge 15 per cent commission. These may have their own copywriters and producers, or employ freelance specialists, but at some stage they normally go to production companies to tape the advertisement.

"It is a fluid industry," Mr Barton said. "We have never had the time to 'consolidate', one

man in it said—and while some advertising agencies turn the whole operation over to outside companies, others are installing their own studios.

As with most competitive businesses, money is the most important factor. "Since radio rates are low compared with television, many agencies consider 15 per cent of less is not good business," Mr Tony Stoller, director of the Association of Independent Radio Contractors, said. Mr Jeremy Rose, managing director of a production company and former chairman of the Association of Radio Producers, commented: "Agencies feel it is not worth while using a £20,000 a year creative man on radio commercials."

Expanding business has meant an increase in the number of people and companies handling it. Although nobody admits to seeing cowboys prowling the studios, there has been some unevenness in the product. However, financial constraints again have their effect. Equipping a studio can cost £30,000 or more, with payroll and rent not lagging far behind. Leasing may reduce capital expenditure, but even the friendly bank manager will become resolute if the cash flow is unhealthy. It is not easy to get rich quick on those terms.

If you have the impression that advertising spots are getting longer, they are. Mr Stoller, whose association acts as combined spokesman and watchdog for independent stations, said: "At the beginning people thought very much in 30-second spots; now they are moving to 60 seconds. But there is also a

move the other way to do shorter advertisements. "Very short ones raise problems in separating them from programmes. Last year a company wanted to do a lot of five-second advertisements, but we would not wear that. There has been a five-minute one: the IBA decided it had to be punctuated at intervals with an announcement that it was an advertisement."

Mr Stoller felt that quality was improving. During the television strike a lot of products which switched to radio tended to use the sound-track from the television commercials. Now I think I detect a trend to use radio sound-track on subsequent television campaigns. Outside production is going up, and some companies make programmes as well as advertisements. These must not interlink or appear to interlink.

The IBA is the ultimate arbiter on advertisement scripts. These, particularly ones dealing with finance, medicine, or making claims for any product, are subject to severe restrictions.

Mr Stoller looked forward to further revenue expansion as more stations open up. In particular he hoped government advertising would come in, once independent radio became available to 80 per cent of potential listeners, which would be considered real national coverage.

Mr Rose was more cautious about the future. He regarded what had been seen so far as steady growth rather than a boom, although he agreed there were more studios, and production companies were getting bigger.

Patrick O'Leary

Tight control kept on standards

Advertising on independent local radio has been as firmly controlled from the day it began as are the commercials that appear on television. The IBA's view became a firm rule: that the maximum amount of radio advertising should be nine minutes in any hour. That is a good deal less than is permitted in comparable services abroad, but in its last annual report the authority referred to accumulating evidence that it had got the figure about right.

Programmes generally are not monitored as closely as those on television—there are too many of them—but the IBA's regional offices and their staffs are able to monitor the general performance of a station to make sure it gets the balance right, giving a fair share of local and national news and of community programming.

Most radio advertising is local and many commercials are made for advertisers in the radio station's own studios. It is always clear to the companies what is and what is not permitted; and they are always expected to observe the normal canons of good taste and decency.

Companies are enabled to operate efficiently by having delegated to them the responsibility to "clear" the bulk of radio advertising in relation to the authority's code of advertising standards and its Notes of Guidance. And they know they can always consult the IBA's advertising control officers.

What happens to doubtful scripts for medicines and treatments, veterinary products and the like, those that make technical claims and others that simply present problems are referred to the central copy clearance office operated by the Independent Television Companies Association and the Association of Independent Radio Contractors.

They set quickly to enable scripts to be processed quickly. Special categories of advertising need special central clearance: and these are listed as medicinal, financial, alcohol, claims relating to guarantees and those needing the advice of specialist consultants.

But not only advertising is tightly controlled. In a station's prospectus you will find the terms of its proposed contract with the IBA. A typical paragraph from one contract reads: "The IBA has wide powers of control giving rights of termination in a variety of different circumstances, including breach by the company of its duties and obligations in providing a service having the content and quality desired by the IBA, the participation by the company or persons interested in the company in certain proscribed activities or the taking of an interest in the company by any person of whom the IBA does not approve."

If the IBA finds that a company is working well within its area and that it is financially and generally sound, then it can "roll" a contract and go on "rolling" it as long as the contractors go on behaving themselves.

The IBA adamantly opposed the Annon Committee's proposal that all local radio should be controlled by a separate body, and the Government subsequently abandoned its—and the BBC's—view.

It believed, it said, that such a move would delay the development of ILR, would lose the benefit of IBA experience in selecting and guiding contractors, controlling advertising and supervising programming, and it would be wasteful of engineering resources.

The threat is no longer there and is unlikely to return in the foreseeable future.

K.G.

Advertising brings floods of cash

When the independent local radio stations first hit the airwaves in the dark days of 1973 few could have forecast the niche they would ultimately fill in community life.

These impecunious little television networks, the thought of as little more than taxable pirate stations which might or might not survive financially. Times change.

Although they may not quite have a "licence to print money" many of them are awash with cash. Advertising revenue has hit record levels in the past year in the wake of the television strike. During the last financial period to September 30, 1979, total revenue for the 19 stations at present on the air, is likely to exceed £40m.

Although part of this was artificially inflated by advertising promotions being more heavily weighted to radio in the absence of television, the trend towards commercial stations is increasing all the time.

Mr John Whitney, managing director of the London-based Capital Radio, admits that in a good month—when the advertising climate is healthy and stable—he would expect to see his station grossing £1m in advertising revenue.

However, because of the way the Government taxes the ILR companies, only 12p out of every £1 taken in, is fed back into the system to finance the budget and pay the dividends.

Over and above the normal corporation tax, the Independent Broadcasting Authority scoops off considerable sums in additional two-tier levies—weighted towards taking most from the successful stations. The commercial rental is a fixed sum determined annually for each company by the IBA while the secondary levy is calculated on the profit margins and runs from 5 per cent on the first part of the surplus to over half at the top end.

And as the revenue has gone up and the stations have become more confident of their future, so the management policy has changed. Last month LBC, the only

commercial news station, dropped its most famous and controversial phone-in programme—hosted by George Gale—and announced a change in policy away from the cheap and cheerful phone-in mainstay of the earlier years and towards more news sequences.

This policy change at LBC is a symptom of the evolution in programme trends being felt throughout the whole radio network as the companies move away from the "pop, prattle and random news" of their earlier days.

As budgets increase and programmes improve so listeners begin to expect more than a daily dose of phone-in news sequences.

One result of the increase in money available has been a recent agreement with the Football League and Football Association to allow reporters from local radio stations to provide a live commentary to matches, thus breaking the BBC monopoly for the first time.

In the music sphere the IBA's charter insists that some 3 per cent of advertising revenue must be spent on live music and as the revenue increases so does the sponsorship of these concerts and performances.

And it is not just the most profitable stations which benefit. The network of stations operates a free transfer of programmes so that although a concert may be sponsored by say BRMB, the Birmingham-based commercial station, it can be relayed through Plymouth Sound for no more than the cost of the tapes.

Drama, one of the most difficult of the arts to portray through a radio transmission, is also benefiting from the cash surpluses. Capital Radio recently bought the Duke of York's Theatre in St Martin's Lane, London, and has installed a studio and production office to widen the scope of its

programmes. Mr Whitney admits that is a twofold project. "We want to put money back into live drama but we can also enjoy the actuality of it through having a studio there," he said.

With 19 stations already on the air, 10 under way and a further 15 approved, local commercial stations will be nationwide by the end of the 1980s. Such a strong and accessible market is bound to lead to more advanced advertising promotions which in turn will further increase revenues. Advertisers already show signs of changing from spot packages to more selective buying as they take a more serious look at the media. Nothing succeeds like access, and that is a commodity that the local radio will have within a few years.

Commercial radio is still a young medium. The Annon report emphasized that part of the stations' brief was to "help bring the community together" and as the budgets grow and the companies gain confidence, this is a directive the stations show increasing signs of fulfilling.

Alison Mitchell

PICCADILLY RADIO 261

Piccadilly Radio sets up new training unit

Piccadilly Radio, with an audience of 1½ million listeners in the Greater Manchester area, is setting up a Training Unit and is seeking a:

Training Officer
With experience in programming

This is a senior post in a small team which will be responsible for planning training schedules and giving detailed instruction to broadcasting staff both at Piccadilly Radio and other independent local radio stations in the United Kingdom. Experience in production and presentation essential. The appointment is initially on a 12 month contract but may be extended. A competitive salary is offered commensurate with experience. Interested? Then male or female candidates write with full details to:

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Following the highly acclaimed 1979 season of the Great Orchestras of the World, Capital Radio is proud to announce a new series of programmes, arranged by Ian Hunter, in which the world's great soloists are recorded live in London for exclusive broadcast by Capital Radio and other Independent Local Radio stations. The first series will commence in the spring in Capital's classical music programme, *The Collection*, on Sundays at 6 p.m. and will feature:

Claudio Arrau	Itzhak Perlman
Vladimir Ashkenazy	Isaac Stern
Daniel Barenboim	Kiri Te Kanawa
Yehudi Menuhin	John Williams
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Great Soloists of the World

مكتبة الأمل

Alarming success helps to put small studio on the map

Five armless, tangerine-coloured easy chairs are squeezed alongside each other at the end of a narrow passage lined with grey steel filing cabinets. It is hardly a VIP waiting room in appearance, yet prominent politicians, leading industrialists, union bosses and household names in literature, art, sport, the film industry and science feel quite flattered to be invited there at an ungilded hour to sip coffee from a plastic mug before being ushered into Control Room B.

It is the small studio in Communications House in Gough Square, a quiet backwater behind Fleet Street from where LBC's very successful AM programme is broadcast. Ironically the square's former claim to fame was that it contained the home of Doctor Johnson, that master of the written word. Today it has been put on the map by two men who with a deceptively casual approach to the spoken word have made AM the alarm clock for millions of listeners.

Five days a week from 6 am until 10 am Douglas Cameron and Bob Holness act as hosts in a programme that has become something of a phenomenon in local radio. Undoubtedly it is one of the outstanding successes in a highly competitive sphere. In 1978 Sir Harold Wilson handed Cameron and Holness an award for the best news presenters of the year and the next year Cliff Richard named AM the best independent radio programme. Accolades from a former Prime Minister and

a pop star unintentionally convey what the programme has managed to achieve—an appeal that caters for all types and tastes. But to pinpoint the reasons for its appeal is like trying to pin a blob of mercury under the ball of the thumb.

Within its clearly defined official boundaries the programme claims a following of 2,500,000. Many of them place as far afield as the Channel Islands, Portugal and Sweden.

Control Room B, little larger than the average suburban lounge, is dominated by a circular table at which Cameron and Holness sit opposite each other, and handle with an easy-going charm that cloaks their sheer professionalism, four hours of non-stop broadcasting.

The recipe for success is difficult to define; on the surface the ingredients do not appear to have any remarkable originality. Like a good meal the secret is in the blending. The show is chatty, informative, relaxed, almost cosy; yet skilfully avoids the rock of banality. It packs in interviews with people at the heart of the latest political, industrial and economic crises, provides a comprehensive international and national news coverage, gives the punter



On Tuesday Douglas Cameron and Bob Holness were named joint independent radio personalities in the Variety Club's annual show business awards.

tips on horses and dogs, and the traveller up to the minute reports of road, rail and air conditions. Commuters are told if their local underground escalator is out of action and travellers abroad are informed whether or not it is advantageous to cash their cheques at home or at their destination.

Undoubtedly one of the programme's greatest appeals is to the motorist, for they are given regular reports on congestion, diversions and weather. Listeners are told when it is lighting-up time, what is on in the way of lectures, concerts and fringe entertainment.

The relaxed approach gives no indication of the

pre-programme research involved. Their day begins well before the programme goes on the air. They have to read the morning newspapers and catch up on the news too late to make the last editions, and they have to brief themselves for the live interviews. To sound enthusiastic and cheerful when most people are still waiting for the alarm bell is a considerable physical and mental achievement. They give no indication of the long, hard slog involved in presenting the programme five mornings a week.

They do not consider a dead-pan form of delivery in impeccable English coupled with a remote detachment essential for an impartial presentation of news and current affairs. They say "good morning" as if they mean it and grimace verbally at bad news.

They realize that while their individual personalities must be allowed to emerge

they must not override the content. As it is they get invited to do all types of outside jobs like judging beauty competitions.

For many the big attraction is the rapport that exists between Holness and Cameron. They excel at off-the-cuff repartee and delightful off-beat stories, many of which are culled from the enormous post bag they receive each day.

Cameron handles most of the news while Holness tackles the bulk of the interviews. The pair handle it all with consummate nonchalance. One minute a shadow minister is airing his opinion, the next an amateur fuel conservationist is expounding on some revolutionary method of powering the car, or a security officer is warning housewives that a gang of forgers is selling canned beans as tinned salmon. Inevitably there are crises but Cameron and Holness both have a solid background of

broadcasting which enables them to meet these without batting an eyelid.

Cameron was an accountant before joining Scottish Television as a football reporter. He became an announcer when Bill Simpson departed for the Doctor Finlay programme; in 1964 he moved to London and worked for BBC 2 and ITN. He also spent four years on the Today programme. He joined LBC when the station was a year old. Holness trod a similar path.

"But I've known the high life. I spent eight months reporting traffic conditions from a helicopter." The ready quip typifies his ability to inject humour into an item of information.

"We aim at every strata of society, from the readers of The Times to the Readers of The Sun," Cameron explains. It is no idle boast which the advertisements, which are the life blood of the show, confirm. The most expensive spots share air space with discount houses and newspapers.

"We meet people who address us by our Christian names yet can't name the Prime Minister." This is an observation totally lacking in arrogance but intended more as a reminder that priorities can become mixed. Both know that AM owes much of its success to the unknown team which works away from the limelight: the producers, the engineers, the researchers, reporters and others who are working round the clock to gather material for the four hours of broadcasting.

"London's fastest growing wake-up habit" is not a two-man show, but neither is it as spontaneous as it sounds.

Alfred Draper

Message mixed with the pop music

The most recent inquiry into broadcasting services for young people was sharply critical of the inadequacy of provision by both local and national radio.

"However, sincere the programme's intentions, there is in practice a wide gap between provision and need," the Gulbenkian report on broadcasting and youth said.

Although there are encouraging developments on radio in relation to young people's employment needs, the time has now come for other possible subject areas to be considered—for example, basic education and the individual's relation to industrial society.

"Broadcasting... schools and colleges is a well-cried and effective means of reaching some sections of young people via their teachers. . . . There are, however, no other departments or sections within broadcasting organizations which are specifically concerned with producing programmes for teenagers or young adults, and this may have contributed to the failure to develop the full potential of general broadcasting. Certainly, young people are rarely specifically catered for."

Is this a fair picture of local radio's educational service (in its broadest sense) for youth? Those in broadcasting do not have much that is positive to say about the Gulbenkian report. Many of those to whom I spoke in BBC and independent radio agreed with the terse comment of one member of the BBC Schools Broadcasting Council: "It is pure blarney."

"It goes to enormous lengths without saying very much; it has greatly underestimated the role of local radio," another BBC man said. A senior official in independent radio was more critical: "The committee of inquiry was appallingly lazy in its study of local radio; it failed to mention virtually anything at all that we are doing. Its analysis is shallow and its

recommendations irrelevant."

However, some of the report's criticisms are accepted. Mr Tony Stoller, former head of radio programming at the IBA and now director of the Association of Independent Radio Contractors, said he was not sanguine about local radio's educational services for young people: "There was certainly room for improvement in presentation and range. Nevertheless, he believed that both the BBC and independent local radio were doing a basically good job, particularly in view of the short time for which they had been operating."

Mr Stoller, who has an impressively wide and detailed knowledge of independent local radio, estimates that about half independent radio's projects are aimed at young adults. They rarely have an overtly educational content, he says, because that would put off the people they are trying to reach—those who did least well at school and who are now wary of being "got at". But there is usually some message or information mixed in with the pop music, news, feature items and chat.

Independent local radio tries to stimulate interest in local activities and events, to give information and advice on a wide variety of issues connected with people and their lives, to direct individuals to the various agencies and people from whom they can get further detailed help with specific problems.

The broad topics which independent radio feels it is most important to cover are: careers guidance; clarification of new laws, such as the proposed rent act and exploration of a wide variety of citizens' rights; practical advice on, say, how to fill in a tax form or how to deal with an awkward local GP; education in leisure; health education, including information on the dangers of smoking, tips on nutrition and some advice on sexual

matters such as homosexuality or contraceptives; musical education which tries to extend young people's tastes into areas such as opera and classical music; and information on education, often providing links with Open University courses, and giving advice on where to go for specialized courses, how to apply, and so on.

BBC local radio fulfils a rather different but just as important role, according to Mr John Saunders, local radio and educational programmes services organizer at the BBC. BBC programmes tend to be more overtly educational, and include some conventional educational programmes for schools and colleges, as well as courses on basic numeracy and literacy. But a smaller proportion of the programmes are designed specifically for young people.

"The types of people who most need help are not serious radio listeners," Mr Saunders explains. "Those in the 15 to 19 age group tend to be anti-establishment and therefore anti the BBC. The BBC has a stuffy image regardless of how untidy some of its local radio stations are. Therefore we do better if we concentrate on 'educating' the groups who work with or for young people, rather than trying to reach young people directly, though we can do that too in some programmes on, say, hard rock or sport."

Both Mr Saunders and Mr Toller see the strength of local radio in its spontaneity, in its psychological and physical closeness to its listeners, and in its ability to talk to young people in their own accent and language, with references to familiar local people and places. It would be disastrous in their view if local radio had to work to a national plan, which they believe could happen if the Gulbenkian report's proposal for a national coordinating body for broadcasting and youth were adopted.

Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

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Anna Raeburn and a doctor answering listeners' questions on Capital Radio's Open Line, a phone-in programme which is broadcast from 7.30 pm to 9 pm each weekday. A wide variety of problems and topical subjects is aired. Capital also operates Helpline, a 24-hour confidential telephone service, which is not broadcast, but which also gives advice on various problems, extending from help with children's homework to legal and emotional difficulties.

A capital service offers help and advice

Capital Radio's 24-hour advice and information Helpline vice kane on as Helpline began three and a half years ago when a hapless disc jockey took a call in the middle of the night from someone who told him she was going to commit suicide—and, no, she had no intention of speaking to the Samaritans.

All he could really do was to listen and talk and try to comfort. But from that experience grew the London station's service to people needing help or advice; indeed such a service is now part of the fabric of most local radio stations. Capital's began with an organizer and 10 staff and financial help from the Manpower Services Commission.

Last year the Capital team answered more than 95,000 calls, not far short of 2,000 a week. In December, for example, the number of callers divided almost equally between male and female and the predominant age group was 16-25. Helping young people has now become a dominant factor in the community services of stations such as Capital.

Liaising with other independent local radio stations, started Operation Dick Whittington last September in an effort to dissuade young people coming in from the regions to find work in London. On Euston Station a kiosk was established to enable such youngsters to receive on-the-spot advice and it was a service station staff well come.

The scheme will probably

be expanded to cover all the London machine termini in time. What provincial stations from Edinburgh to Swansea do to support it is to emphasize the problems and list the preparations needed to make.

Do not go, they say, unless you have money, a job in prospect and somewhere to live—good advice, at a time when 45,000 people under 25 cannot find work in London; yet each year, 10,000 more pour in, many with nowhere to sleep and no idea how to find work.

The jobless are taking advantage in great numbers of Capital's Jobfinder service which has a special telephone number (01-636 3261) manned from 8.30 am to 5 pm. Last year 7,500 youngsters called in at the Capital foyer where lists of vacancies are exhibited and 27,000 telephoned for information.

Capital would like to know how many actually find work through this service but apart from letters to DJs, little information is available. As an adjunct to Jobfinder, Capital launched Jobmare last September and found that plenty of people, from personnel directors to housewives, were willing to see young people in their own areas to sort out their job problems. Expansion has been so considerable that Capital moved out of its sales office to other premises to provide more space at Euston Tower.

Capital also has a flat-share list which it distributes by the thousand; and it is also in the process of publishing

a series of know-how pamphlets, which among other subjects advise people on how to start a business, to buy their own house and how to solve their emotional problems.

Radio stations also do well when it comes to appeals. Capital's Kampuchea appeal, much to its astonishment, realized £100,000, and a good deal of that was in luncheon vouchers, by arrangement with the Inland Revenue Department. There is also a special Easter appeal—Help a London Child—and this benefited 140 organizations last year when they shared £100,000.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority recognized the kind of contribution local radio can make in its last annual report; so, that matter, did the BBC, applauding the role of the stations in warning the public in times of emergency. But it was none the less the IBA report on local radio that gained the plaudits, bringing from one official the tribute that it was "the best description of local radio" she had seen.

The report said: "While the service to the general audiences remains an important element of most programmes, there has been a steady increase in features and projects designed to give help or advice to specific sections of the listening audience."

And it went on to express admiration—as did the Annan report—for local radio's particular knack of integrating this more

specialist form of programming within the mainstream of entertainment, news and information.

Similarly the BBC's most recent annual report drew attention to the community services radio can provide. In times of emergency, like the severe winter of 1978-79, the radio station can be a source of only means of communication. During this time one station handled more than 2,000 extra calls a day from listeners seeking and providing information.

But the general appeal of the stations is summed up in the IBA's report. Attitudes differ little from area to area, a high degree of consensus emerging in response to a central question: which elements of independent local radio output were liked the most?

The answer in almost every survey has been a station's local news coverage. Typically, the report adds, more than 90 per cent of all local radio listeners say they like this feature. The provision of an alternative source of music is rarely mentioned.

Rather, listeners like being made more aware of what is happening in the area. Generally, independent local radio stations have received a stronger endorsement for their role of bringing local information to a wide number of listeners than have competing BBC local radio stations.

The BBC might well be prepared to argue the point.

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Ronald Butt

Abortion: the false charges

For nearly 2,000 years of Christian civilization, taking the life of an unborn child was regarded as a vile and heinous moral offence which degraded humanity. When an abortion was done to save the life of a mother or to prevent a woman from the consequences of rape, those responsible, including the doctors, acted in consciousness that a grave moral decision was involved. Abortions to avoid illegitimate births, or otherwise for convenience, were performed with a secrecy that was as much the mark of the shame attaching to the deed as a consequence of its illegality.

The 1967 Act, which Mr David Steel sponsored, drastically changed social and individual attitudes. It was the outcome of a long campaign by a persistent pressure group which was concerned not only to prevent the physical risks of illegal abortion but to give women the "right" to choose, after a pregnancy had begun, whether to bear the child.

Even so, the idea that a woman had anything like an unqualified right to have the foetus removed would have been wholly unacceptable to both Parliament and public in 1967, and Mr Steel therefore gave an undertaking in the House of Commons that his Bill would not open the door to abortion on request.

On that understanding, Parliament passed it. Mr Steel still maintains that the Act does not allow abortion on demand because it requires the agreement of two doctors. Yet provided a woman goes to doctors who believe that if a woman thinks she needs an abortion, then she does need one, a legal abortion is available to her. This is possible because the Act permits

abortion where the continuance of pregnancy involves risks greater than abortion—and statistically early abortions (mostly on young healthy women) are less dangerous than childbirth, which of course, includes women who have their children despite ill-health.

The result has been a huge rise in the number of abortions (by some 400 per cent) and the shattering of the old conviction that defenceless human life must be protected. The 1967 Act has created a new market for abortions because of the common confusion between law and morality. Since the law is supposed to have some sort of moral basis, it is easily assumed, when convenient, that the minimum of essential morality is enshrined in the law. Abortion as a back-up to contraception is claimed as a "right" and the fact that a particular pregnancy leads to a particular child ceases to be relevant.

The interpretation of the 1967 Act in ways well outside the intentions of many who voted for it, has been the subject of persistent criticism and anxiety. Abuses have been revealed in what is now a highly lucrative branch of the medical (if that is the right word for it) profession. There has been particular horror when babies have been aborted at or near the stage of viability. It is for these reasons that three private members' Bills have been brought before Parliament, the third of which is Mr John Corrie's, which comes up for its third reading tomorrow.

Yet beneath its attempt to remedy particular abuses, the Corrie Bill signifies something deeper, and it is this that explains the bitter and

venomous opposition to it—the onslaught of twisted propaganda which too often masquerades in the media as objective reporting.

For, although the practical impact of the Bill may not be great, it will re-state the view of Parliament and public that every abortion is a grave question of fundamental morality, and is not simply a matter of a moral social convenience.

That is why it is anathema to the hard-core abortion lobby, which sees the 1967 Act as a stage towards their goal—which is society's unqualified acceptance of abortion on demand. The slightest retreat from the 1967 Act, therefore, is bad news for them.

It is also, of course, why the furious tritose of the abortion movement send Mr Corrie knitting needles (their symbol for backstreet abortions) through the post, and why they revile him and spit on him. In addition, doctors for whom abortion was not long ago contrary to their medical ethics, now find it an easy and convenient way of meeting some of their professional problems and would rather things were not disturbed.

So, to prevent the passage of the Bill, dire consequences are predicted for which there is no warrant. The propaganda against the Bill has been mostly dishonest but very clever. It suggests that a girl who has been raped may not be able to get an abortion. That is false. Abortion after rape was available before the 1967 Act; a woman's right to it is not grounded in that Act, and nothing affecting rape is contained in the Corrie Bill.

Nor does it diminish the right to an abortion where there is any

genuine risk to physical and mental health. The controversial "social causes" provision of the 1967 Act is unaffected. And while the Bill reduces the latest time at which an ordinary abortion can take place from the 28th to the 20th week of pregnancy, later abortions will still be legal after the 20th week where there is a genuine health need—though the Bill does provide that the method then used should not be one that automatically destroys the life of a child which, if delivered, could live.

Again, the Bill would remove the financial link between the referring agencies and the abortion clinics which subsidise them. It is a link that recalls the pre-war practice of consultants who gave a few guineas to GPs who sent patients to them. A question of medical ethics is surely raised by the advertising of abortion by the referring agencies, which then send on about 90 per cent of applicants to the doctors in the clinics.

But what about a woman's right to choose? The answer is that a woman can have no such absolute right. She has no more right to abort and destroy foetus (say) 35 to 40 weeks than she has to destroy the child at delivery. The question is simply where the line is to be drawn, not only in respect of the stage at which abortion is permitted but also in respect of the grounds for it. The new Bill does no more than remove the permission for on-demand abortions based on a bogus statistical comparison, and requires that there should be substantially more risk in the continuance of the pregnancy. This still leaves everything to the doctor's

conscience in the hope that it may deter the frivolous use of abortion as a contraceptive back-up.

Public attitudes are clear. As a *Sunday Times* poll showed last week, the public overwhelmingly approves of abortion where the mother's life is endangered; her health is at risk; a woman has been raped; the child is likely to be handicapped or the woman is under the age of consent. None of these is affected by the Corrie Bill.

The poll also showed that the public disapproved of abortion where it is because a woman is not married, and if it is because married couples do not want any, or any more children, or want to postpone their families. This is the "convenience" area the Bill seeks to influence. Such "issue" questions are more significant of public feeling than blanket questions about abortion, where attitudes have been conditioned by the widespread propaganda which misrepresents the scope of the Corrie Bill.

The House of Commons, in two Parliaments, in one select committee and by majorities on the second reading of three Bills, has expressed its misgivings about the present law. The Government has a clear duty, therefore, to see that the House has an opportunity to pronounce on this one.

If private members time proves inadequate, the Government should provide additional time so that MPs can come to a conclusion one way or the other. To allow the Bill to fall not because a majority is against it but for lack of time, and because of the pressures against it, would be an act of gross cowardice on the Government's part.

Bernard Levin

Noble gentlemen, your case is dismissed

Yesterday I listed, in some detail and at much length, the many breaches of the Olympic Charter committed by the Soviet Union, any one of which disqualifies her, or would do so if the International Olympic Committee bothered to enforce its own rules, even when participation in the Games, let alone from being awarded the honour of holding them. Today, I want to turn to some of the more general aspects of the controversy, and to draw some conclusions.

Suggestions that the Moscow Olympics should be boycotted or removed to another city have hitherto been resisted by the International Olympic Committee (or at least by its president, Lord Killanin) together with the British Olympic Committee in the person of Sir Denis Follows (its chairman), and the Marquess of Exeter. As I have now shown, the claim that the Soviet Union is entitled to stage the Games and is within the rules in doing so has no substance at all: it would hardly be going too far to say that the IOC, in awarding the Games to the Soviet Union and in insisting that she must be allowed to hold them, has perpetrated a gigantic fraud on the world, by first ignoring the Soviet Union's multiple ineligibility, and then compounding that offence by insisting on Olympic legality as the basis for the refusal to countenance the removal or boycott of the Games. But if legality is to be the test, what more extreme breach of it could there be than the ruthless military subjugation by the Soviet Union (whose leaders refused to let their team play in the world Chess Olympiad in Israel, which they declared unfit to be host to the contest because of its aggression!) of a neighbour country which is itself a member of the Olympic movement?

And yet men like Killanin, Exeter and Follows are not knaves or fellow-travellers; the worst that could be said of them, and even that is probably unjust in the case of Lord

Exeter, is that they are infected by a naive kind of vanity, and reveal more than they should in the thought of being treated, once every four years, as Very Important Persons.

Beyond that, of course, lies the greatest failing of our world, and the one which is the most likely candidate for the role of destroying it altogether. It is the atrophy of the moral imagination, which prevents honourable men from seeing that they are behaving dishonourably, because they cannot think themselves—no, feel themselves—into the position of those who suffer at the hands of those they are helping by their actions. The Soviet Union is wholly ineligible, under the terms of the Olympic Charter, to stage the Olympic Games; but even if she were not, her rulers have put themselves beyond the pale of international sportsmanship by their other countries must, of course, continue to treat with the Soviet leaders, for the peace of the world may depend on their doing so. But for those not charged with such responsibilities to lend the prestige of such organisations as the Olympic Movement to men who will pervert it, defile it and use it against the bravest and most noble of their own people and of the peoples of their cruel, corrupt empire—that is a crime against the light that it is not easy to forgive.

To this charge the defence will be that Lord Killanin, Lord Exeter and Sir Denis Follows are as much opposed to Soviet tyranny, aggression and persecution as I am, but that their duty as officials of the Olympic body is to put such feelings aside and consider only their responsibilities in that capacity. The defence fails on two counts. First, the Soviet Union is in breach of the Olympic Charter itself. Second, the defence is without foundation. The three men I have named would never advocate the award of the Games to Chile, to Argentina, to Malawi, to South Korea, to Haiti, to Pakistan, even if every Olympic condition and rule



The Olympic flame: in Russia's case, better unlit

were scrupulously complied with by those nations. They would reject these countries on political grounds, judging them (rightly or wrongly) unfit either because of their political condition or because of the general political revulsion that such an award would cause, or could be plausibly presented as causing, to the conscience of the world. Yet the Soviet Union—totalitarian, imperialist, aggressive, racist—is honoured with the Games, and the Killanins, Exeters and Follows actually defend the decision by pretending that political considerations should not, and even do not, play any part in the choice. How can such men live in a moral milieu of this kind and still swear—believe—that the air is sweet? There is only one way, and it is by no means original, nor are they the only men who follow it. They accept, in their honest, glibbed goodwill, any lie the Soviet authori-

ties propose to go further still, and deport the entire school population of the city, lest they should, in the innocent way of childhood, ask the funny foreigners questions, and listen to the replies—or, worse, listen to the funny foreigners' questions, and reply truthfully.

What else can he do? What else can Lord Killanin and Sir Denis Follows do? For if they refused to accept such base and mendacious "assurances" they would have to start asking questions of the Russians but of themselves, and very uncomfortable questions they would be.

There are at least one million political prisoners in the Soviet Union, in concentration camps, jails and madhouses-for-the-sane. They are starved, humiliated, tortured; they have no redress of any kind of law, they have no hope but in us outside. Are you happy, noble Lords and hardly less noble Knights, to play games for the honour and glory and prestige of the people who set up and maintain that system? Only last week, an 8-year-old man, Vladimir Shelkov, in a Soviet concentration camp for protesting and practising Christianity, died from the conditions of starvation and incessant physical labour that obtain in the "strict-regime" camp to which he was sent. Assuming, as I do, that sort of thing were to you, why does it not worry you enough to do anything about it? Have you, perhaps, had assurances from the Soviet authorities—to the effect, say, that Shelkov was in the Siberian branch of Butlin's, and died peacefully of old age despite all the care the staff lavished upon him?

And then again, in Olympic Moscow itself, plans are ready to deport the city's Jewish population en masse to the east for the period of the Games (and quite possibly for much longer—in some cases, no doubt, for ever); the roundings-up of dissidents, including those Jews who have applied for permission to leave the country, has already begun. Does that, I wonder, cause our three sprightly horsemen of the apocalypse to wonder whether they are doing quite the right thing? Indeed, the Soviet

authorities propose to go further still, and deport the entire school population of the city, lest they should, in the innocent way of childhood, ask the funny foreigners questions, and listen to the replies—or, worse, listen to the funny foreigners' questions, and reply truthfully.

But no doubt there have been assurances on those matters, too. Indeed, I begin to wonder whether there is any point at which, for these people, credulity would make a stand or at which what happens outside the Stadium would affect their view of what happens inside. After all, the Olympic mascot is a turned out by concentration-camp inmates, for sale as souvenirs at the Moscow Games, and the three apparently see nothing in that fact (if indeed, they have not been given, and believed, assurances that it isn't happening) incompatible with the spirit of the Olympics or even with their own attendance in the land where that betrayal of the Olympic spirit and of humanity itself is the normal condition.

It is no use their saying that they are only sportsmen, and such matters are therefore not their concern. They are human beings, and it is their duty as it is mine and yours, to act against such inhuman wickedness in whatever way is possible. It so chances that they are in an unrivalled position to achieve effective action against men who have violated a dozen of the specific provisions of the rules under which the Olympic Games are held, and every single aspect of the spirit in which those rules were drawn up and in which they are supposed to operate. Are they going to take such action? Or do the festivities in Moscow shine more brightly in their eyes than the obligations of humanity?

Incidentally, it is not time that some of our athletes started asking themselves that last question?

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'Sam George' and the London connexion

Experienced policemen throughout Europe have been astonished at the ease at times amounting to insouciance with which the "Sam George Syndicate" ranged at will the length and breadth of the continent and the hinterland of Asia. Frontiers checkpoints and customs posts presented no barrier in the face of an ample supply of money, dozens of "doctored" passports and driving documents which were so skillfully forged and altered that only forensic science detected their bogus nature.

Such was the group's impact on the top end of the hire car market and the quantities of cannabis of which it swamped various countries as a result, that Interpol convened a meeting of all national police forces involved to plot their downfall.

Over a four-year period the syndicate with a "core" of eight—including three seasoned yesterday—and up to 25 more drivers, "runners" and female decoys, stole at least 280 high value cars worth £3m. These were taken to Istanbul or Lebanon to be sold or exchanged for purified cannabis oil worth as much as £100,000.

The drug was brought back in some retained vehicles, hidden in the suspension and false compartments, or in plastic "body packs" taped to the midriff of runners, each carrying about £21,000 worth.

From the group's base in Amsterdam it would then be distributed often by air mail to thousands of street traders in north America and Europe. Britain was not a receiving country although south Wales was a potential target, police said. The street value of the oil in the United Kingdom was £7,000 a kilo.

Attended by good luck for a long period the group's operational skill was worthy of a film script by Fleming or Forsyth. It had its effects on the Foreign Office which has since changed procedures and tightened up the issue of passports at embassies and consulates; it enabled them to "spring" their leader Samuel George, an Italian, from a Swiss prison by dragging two guards after passing messages to him shot from a blowpipe from the road outside.

George was to die two months later in December, 1978. He "choked" to death in a seedy 13th Arrondissement apartment Avenue D'Italie, Paris. It was an event that most police, except the French, still regard as murder.

Two of the "core" members of the syndicate are still at large. Neither have been seen since about the time of George's death, and are now thought to be in Peru, from which there is no extradition agreement, with a large share of the group's profits. They are wanted by most European police forces.

In addition to those jailed yesterday others are also serving sentences in Europe following the coordinated police actions launched 14 months ago. None of those held have revealed the identity of "the banker" thought to be a European. They in turn are relying on his loyalty for police say that substantial sums have been banked in Switzerland awaiting their release.

The "core" members ensured they could always be in touch wherever they were in Europe through an elaborate network of telephone numbers; it helped them keep several moves ahead of the police, is worked so well that when one man was held in Birmingham, others in London knew within 15 minutes and acted accordingly.

Supplies of money were always available at banks throughout Europe for hiring the best cars for getaways and even the type of

clothing to present an acceptable front to go with the expensive cars. It was a life that appealed to young men from mainly working class homes, but who all had a sense of style, confidence and a very marked streak of avarice.

On the Istanbul "run" they frequently stayed for several days at Cannes or Nice to enjoy themselves. The "bonker" was generous with expenses and they always drew \$500 payment for each trip. Their female company was not only for pleasure but to act as decoys ensuring an easy passage of frontiers.

Mr Leonard's companion for example was an exotic Turkish girl, Mr Foy's a student from Milan university. At EEC frontiers the engine and chassis numbers of cars were entered in passports. But Mr Foy the expert forger always had with him his getaway kit—to doctor passports and driving documents.

Passports would be dismembered and "clean" pages substituted. Police said that only forensic tests could detect the alterations. Ironically Mr Foy was arrested in a case in which he did not detect a minute difference in the size of a page in his stolen passport.

The officer claimed he had only been able to do so because of 10 years' experience on the passport desk at Heathrow airport, and he knew what to look for. Armed with "clean" passports drivers and companions returned as "foot" passengers from Turkey and the Lebanon always with "body packs" of oil attached to their bodies.

The cars that returned had been stocked at the cannabis farm of the Jaffer family at Baulbeck Lebanon by the so-called "magic man" who was highly regarded for his skill in hiding the drug in vehicles. A Granada car in a stockpile was impounded at Bari in Italy for three years without the drug being traced in the suspension and wishbone.

Detective Sergeant Rex Langford of West Midlands police pleaded with Italian colleagues to examine it further; they did so reluctantly with an electric drill and as the oil gushed out they had to seal it with their chewing gum.

The hazards and increased police vigilance led to casualties for the group. Mr Foy was caught in Italy but purchased his freedom. George was stopped by traffic in Switzerland and later received an eight year sentence for illegal importation of cannabis oil. But within months his wife and others "sprang" him from his prison in the Alps.

The Interpol conference which took place in Paris a month before this strange death had started the concerted action that accelerated the smashing of the syndicate. The car held at Bari was to lead to the group's downfall. They had stolen another Granada from the Midlands and hoped to substitute it for the one in Italy. But while in Amsterdam the Dutch police moved in on the group and Mr Leonard by then the titular leader, escaped from an armed police ambush outside the British consulate.

With police activity in Europe becoming too intense Mr Leonard and others returned home only to be taken by police. One man was escorted home glad of police company because he had been "ripping off" his confederates by Birmingham justices a year ago, failed to surrender, and it is now thought to be in any one of a dozen countries that the syndicate once travelled so freely.

He is now known as "the loner".

Arthur Osman

ARTS DIARY

DO YOU, or does your firm accept money on deposit or loan?

If so, you should be aware that under the terms of the **BANKING ACT 1979**

you may need permission from the Bank of England to continue deposit-taking.

This permission must be requested by 31 March 1980.

In most cases it will be an offence after 31 March 1980 to continue a deposit-taking business, whether deposits are interest-bearing or not, unless permission has been requested. Permission is not required if deposits are solely by way of pre-payment for goods or services.

If you think you may be affected, you should obtain a copy of the Act from Her Majesty's Stationery Office and consult your legal advisers.

If you have any queries, you should telephone the Banking Supervision Division of the Bank of England on 01-601 4444 or write to

Enquiries Section, Banking Supervision Division, Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AH.

New language for very ancient folk

The novelist Anthony Burgess has never been afraid of experiment, but he is currently undertaking a task that would daunt most writers: he is trying to invent a new language.

His aim is not to provide an alternative to Esperanto, but rather to devise a spoken language for the characters in a film set in prehistoric times. Necessarily it must be a type of speech easily comprehensible to cinema-goers.

The film, *Quest for Fire*, is based on a 1911 novel by Rosny Aisne and is being planned by Twentieth Century Fox, whose head of production in Britain, Tim Hampton, said that they did not want to use any modern speech in the film.

At present, he said, Mr Burgess was still very much at the stage of research, and trying out different ideas. "It has to be a simple language that the audience will begin to understand after 15 or 20 minutes. The film-makers are particularly concerned to avoid the sort of grunts used in some previous films about prehistoric times.

To complete his task, Mr Burgess has until August, when shooting is due to start, in Iceland and Kenya.

Olympic hitch

One feature of the continuing wrangle over the Moscow Olympics has been the cancellation in the United States of a planned film, *Olympiad*. Apparently the producer felt a love story about

an American athlete and a Russian girl was unlikely, in the present circumstances, to have much box-office appeal.

However, in Britain a new chick-flick about the same title is going ahead. The Youth and Music organization, with money from the Arts Council, commissioned Jonathan Clift and Graeme Du Fresne to write the work, and performances with 200 children are already scheduled in Chester and Manchester at the time of the Olympics.

Mr Clift, a producer with English National Opera North, said most of the action would take place at the ancient Greek Olympics. Only the finale was set in Moscow, and he has prepared for the worst: if the Moscow games are cancelled, then he will switch the finale to the scene of the first modern Olympics: Athens, 1896.

Faced with financial difficulties, the Manchester Camera chamber orchestra is mounting a marathon 36 hour concert in May. It hopes to raise £30,000 from sponsors, with the aid of 200 players, 30 soloists and 20 conductors.

Land of myths

Following the craze for space movies, Hollywood is now becoming enthusiastic about "sword and sorcery" stories. One title already announced is *Thor* in the Valley of Demons—which gives you a fair idea of the sort of thing they are planning.

Nearer home, film-makers are delving into the realm of myths: one picture which has just finished shooting in Ireland is *Tristan and Isolde*, with a cast including Richard Burton.

Complete with a score from the traditional music group, the Chieftains, the film should open in Britain later this spring.

Meanwhile John Boorman is also to start directing *Merlin*, a film he has wanted to make for years but has only found possible now because the cinema world is more sympathetic to fantasy and legend.

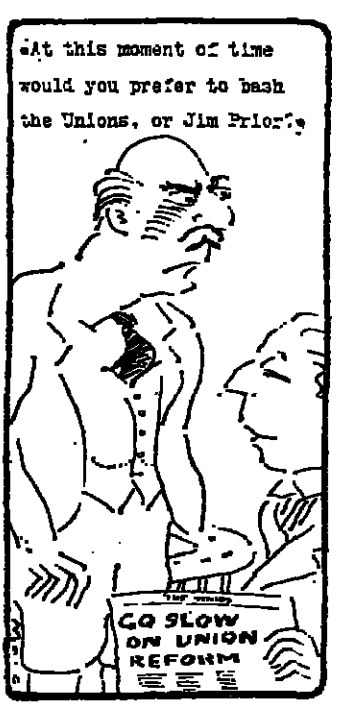
The film, which was made in Ireland, will be based on Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*, with some additions from early Celtic sources. Boorman promises a mixture of high adventure, romance and magic.

In 1978 the Isle of Man held the first international double bass competition in Britain; this year they are holding the first international viola competition in Britain. How about an international tuba competition for 1982?

New Onegin

More than 40 years after it was written, a lengthy work by Pushkin will be heard complete for the first time when it is broadcast by the BBC in two months time. The work is *Eugene Onegin*, described by the conductor Edward Downes as "a sort of dramatic oratorio".

He said the music was written when the Soviet government commissioned various composers to produce works celebrating the 1937 centenary of Pushkin's death. Prokofiev wrote incidental music, amounting to 42 numbers, for a stage version of Pushkin's novel *Eugene Onegin*. But then, as was the way with Soviet musi-



"At this moment of time would you prefer to hush the Unions, or Jim Prior?"

Julie Covington, an actress who demonstrates a constant enthusiasm for anything new, appears at the Young Vic next month in a joint production, *An Optimistic Thru*. It is a play without a writer, which is being created by the group during rehearsals. The director is William Gaskill, lately of the National Theatre.

Finished fifth

Two famous unfinished symphonies by Malcolm Williamson, which were not completed in time for its premiere during the 1977 Jubilee celebrations, is still unfinished. But the composer has already completed another symphony, his fifth, and the premiere is scheduled for April 23.

Given Mr Williamson's position as Master of the Queen's Music, it might be expected that the premiere would be a gay occasion presented by a leading orchestra; instead the symphony will be performed at Brent town hall, in north-west London, by the Brent Youth Symphony Orchestra, who commissioned it.

Mr Williamson has by no means written down for the young musicians: it is a very serious work, with the expression of his vision of the Virgin.

Rehearsals for the premiere started two months ago, and the orchestra's conductor, John Michael East, said he thought the young players were coping very well. "It is quite complex, but I think it is going to be very exciting."

And that unfinished fourth symphony? The composer said he was still working on one movement. He does hope to complete it eventually.

Dancing on

The black South African musical *Ipi-Tombi* seems to have the formula for universal success (babe, breasts, endless singing and dancing and a minimum of plot may have something to do with it).

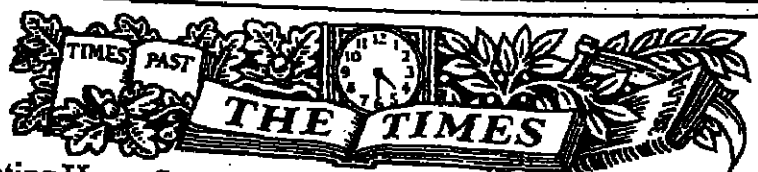
After more than four years in the West End, the producers announced this week that it is moving to a new theatre, the Astoria, as its "summer home". Perhaps they think it will run forever.

They could be right: after performing in 17 countries, the latest touring production has been in Las Vegas since last September, and has been asked to stay until 1981.

It looks as if South Africa has discovered a new export industry.

Martin Huckerby

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NO ROOM FOR MR ROBINSON

The report by Mr Derek Robinson's union into his dismissal by British Leyland last November is a determinedly oblique document. It pays no attention at all to the main question at issue: whether dismissal was a reasonable reaction to Mr Robinson's misconduct. Soon after a seven-to-one majority of the employees at BL had endorsed Sir Michael Edwards' plan for restructuring the company, Mr Robinson circulated a booklet inciting those who dissented to frustrate the implementation of the plan by disruptive tactics. The merits of this proposal are not examined by the inquiry, and the booklet itself does not even appear in the list of documents before the committee. Mr Robinson comes in for some criticism—quite sharp, but this relates entirely to his cavalier attitude towards the rules and customs of his own union.

The committee confines itself almost entirely to the procedural question whether the dismissal was accomplished in prescribed and proper form. Here it faced a difficulty: the company has drawn up a formal disciplinary code, but this has never been agreed because the Longbridge stewards have refused to negotiate on it. However, the company has tried to act in the spirit of this provisional code, and the committee in turn enters into the spirit of it so far as to base their

call for Mr Robinson's reinstatement on the claim that his dismissal broke the spirit of the code. He and three others signed the pamphlet; the others were given a formal warning, but he was dismissed on the grounds that he had already received a similar warning, in relation to a strike he had called (in defiance of union procedure and, as it turned out, of the wishes of his fellow members) nine months before.

It does seem that the earlier disciplinary action failed to comply with some of the formalities that the company has sought to impose on itself. If Mr Robinson had felt that the procedure had broken the strict rules that the law now applies to such matters, he could have taken his case to an industrial tribunal, which could have awarded compensation and recommended reinstatement (though it could not obviously have carried more weight of impartiality than an adjudication by his own union. But in the situation that existed in November last year, the broad justice of the management's action is hard to dispute. At a sensitive moment when the entire future of the company depended on the implementation of the Edwards plan and the attitude of the workforce was as embittered and plain as it could possibly be, publication of the leaflet was a most inflammatory and damaging action.

The only good reason at that stage for failing to dismiss Mr Robinson would have been fear of the reaction among his fellow workers. Workers' attitudes about solidarity and victimisation, and about the divinity which doth hedge a works convenor, are deeply felt, and can perfectly well co-exist with the rational view of their own interests that led the BL workers to vote for the Edwards plan. The protest strike immediately after the dismissal was fairly well supported at Longbridge, and attracted a certain amount of support elsewhere.

If now the management refuse to accept Mr Robinson's reinstatement as employee and shop steward (and yesterday's report scarcely supplies the "remarkable evidence" that Sir Michael Edwards says would be needed to make him change his mind) the workers will be faced with direct choice between Mr Robinson and their jobs. The simple truth is that British Leyland is a dying company, and that the Edwards regime gives it its last hope of survival. Mr Robinson's period as convenor at Longbridge saw a rate of industrial disputes far higher than before or since—the loss of man hours was 87 per cent greater than it had been in the time of his predecessor. Even if all goes well, it will be touch and go whether BL will pull through: the return of Mr Robinson would guarantee that it would not.

LABOUR MOVEMENT NEEDS MORE DEMOCRACY

Both sides in the struggle for the future of the Labour Party claim that they are fighting for democracy. Both sides are self-interested; only one proposes anything approaching democratic reforms. The left wing argue that the National Executive Committee is the centre of democratic power in the Labour Party, that it would be more democratic for all Labour MPs to be re-elected by their local association for each Parliament, and that the election of leader of the Party in Parliament and be given to the Party Conference or to some electoral college which included representatives of the Party Conference. But the Party Conference is bogus; it represents millions who have not been consulted and hundreds of thousands who do not exist, and it represents these fictitious masses through people whose views are supported by a small minority of Labour voters.

The Campaign for Labour Victory also stresses democracy, but regards the NEC as an unelected body, so peculiarly chosen as not to be representative of the Party as a whole. The Campaign for Labour Victory do not think that members of Parliament should be re-elected except where there is a genuine desire to do so, and believe that the selection of members of Parliament should be in the hands of all the members of a Labour constituency associa-

tion on the basis of one member, one vote. That could become the equivalent to an American primary where the selection was hotly contested. They also want the election of the party leader to remain in the hands of members of Parliament, though they are obviously tempted by the idea of a national primary election of the Labour leader. Perhaps rightly so.

The question of democracy is one which arises in the trade unions as well as in the Labour Party. The procedures of the Labour movement as a whole are open to manipulation because they are not sufficiently democratic. At Labour Party conferences, or at trade union conferences, block votes are cast on behalf of memberships who have never been adequately consulted by general secretaries who have in some cases been elected for life. There is no model of democracy which could be used to justify the structure of the Transport and General Workers' Union which is the largest union in the country. Too many unions have neither secret ballots nor proper regular elections of senior office holders.

The proposals put forward by Campaign for Labour Victory do not reach the problem of democracy in the trade unions. Even under their proposals, eighteen members of the NEC would be trade union members elected by means which are basically defective. Only eleven would

be elected by the region on a one member one vote basis. Their proposals are therefore for a limited improvement in the internal democracy of the Labour Party, and not for anything extreme. However, the tendency of these proposals would at least be to increase the influence of genuine democracy in the Labour Party, and so far as they go they are genuine.

The aim of the left wing, including those who at present dominate the NEC, is the exact opposite. All their proposals would tend to increase the opportunity for manipulation, the opportunity for small minorities—that is themselves—to influence or dominate the Labour Party. Although they use the argument of democracy, their proposals would increase their own power and remove control of the Labour Party still further from ordinary Labour supporters. The national executive is in the middle between the leadership in Parliament and the rank and file. The mass Labour support is usually sympathetic to the moderation of the leadership, and on most issues unsympathetic to the extremism of the left faction on the NEC. The future of the Labour Party does indeed depend on making the Labour Party democratic: it is always sound in politics to trust democracy, to take power away from the manipulators of pseudo-democratic systems.

AN UNSUCCESSFUL TOUR

No English lover of cricket can feel other than depressed by the season in Australia that has just ended, and not just because England lost the test series. The way in which they lost was, admittedly, disheartening. Batsmen who, in England, had shown themselves possessed of considerable skill and maturity of character bore themselves in Australia, bereft of both. Few of the specialist batsmen can be entirely exempt from criticism.

More important than the fortunes of the English team, however, is the future of the game itself. Test cricketers are now better rewarded financially than they were, and that they deserve. But the past few months have shown that in other ways the influence of Packerism to be almost entirely malign. The traditional structure of the season with its two touring teams and the preoccupation with one-day matches, was imposed on the Australian

cricketing board by the exigencies of having to meet its commitments to the Packer organization. The marketing of the tour was brash, insistent, and unpleasant.

It cannot be coincidence that the games were watched by spectators whose behaviour can be compared, without injustice, to that of the rowdier types of English football supporters (although it is doubtful that the scoring of a goal by an opposing team would be treated with the banter and jeering that accompanied Brearley achieving his half-century). The crowds at the larger Australian cricket grounds have never been known for their reverence towards the players, but their recent conduct bordered on, and not infrequently achieved, pure hooliganism. Regrettably, at times the behaviour of some of the players—mainly Australian, it must be said—was not so very different. It is particularly unfortunate

that the arrival of the cricketing yobbo has started to drive away the genuine and knowledgeable cricket supporters.

There is, happily, for the moment no likelihood of the excesses of Packerism being imported into England, although it has been evident for some time that the one-day game is attracting an increasing number of spectators apparently more attuned to the Kop at Liverpool than the green of Lords. The introduction of football songs into the summer game is unwelcome, but not yet worse than that. The game in England flourishes, although, for its continued health, the national team will have to learn to win again. The justified irritation that is now being felt at the team's experiences in Australia should not cloud the fact that it was beaten, in two of the three tests comprehensively. Mr Packer was not responsible for that.

The right to know

From Mr C. T. Brannigan
Sir, I refer to the report which appeared on January 26 under the heading "Press officers 'black-listed'". This was a charge levelled against the Guild of British Newspaper Editors by the vice-president of the National Union of Journalists, arising from a document entitled "Network of Silence".

I have the honour to be the president of the Guild and would refuse that charge completely. The document in question was prepared for the Guild in order to focus attention on difficulties encountered by editors of provincial daily and weekly newspapers during the NUJ journalists' strike last winter.

During the seven weeks' duration of the strike the vast majority of those editors continued to produce their newspapers in a genuine attempt to keep the public informed but in a considerable number of cases the public were denied that right because the flow of information to newspapers was obstructed.

The document was given a wide distribution in the hope that the public interest could in future be protected against such discriminatory action. It is our hope that organizations would in similar circumstances

make alternative arrangements to ensure that information is passed to the press and therefore to the public when individual press officers refuse to do so.
Yours faithfully,
COLIN BRANNIGAN,
President,
The Guild of British Newspaper Editors,
Essex County Newspapers,
70 Culver Street West,
Colchester,
Essex.

Wildfowling interests

From Mr Ian Presti
Sir, From your report (January 14) it might be construed that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds had sought powers under the forthcoming Wildlife and Countryside Bill that might interfere with the interests of wildfowling. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are firmly of the view that the enforcement of wildlife legislation should be, as in a number of countries, in the hands of a specialist government agency and not be left largely to voluntary bodies like ourselves to pursue.

Certain amendments to the Protection of Birds Acts are becoming urgent and it is to be hoped that ministers will act to ensure that at least these aspects of the Bill can

become law in 1980—the centenary of the first comprehensive Bird Protection Act.
Yours faithfully,
IAN PRESTI,
Director,
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,
The Lodge,
Sandy,
Bedfordshire.

Primary maths teaching

From Dr Barry Supple
Sir, Mr Welch's defence of the teaching of maths in primary schools (February 2) was not necessary. The Assessment of Performance Unit's report did not suggest that there had been any decline in primary schoolchildren's performance in one area or level of mathematics with that in another. The results of the survey will be of great value in establishing a baseline against which the performance of future surveys can be measured. But they can make no contribution to our present almost complete lack of information about past trends.
Yours faithfully,
BARRY SUPPLE,
Chairman of the Consultative Committee,
Assessment of Performance Unit,
Nuffield College,
Oxford.

My family at the time were in a neighbouring bay, and only heard of the tragedy one and a half hours later.
Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS JAY,
House of Commons,
February 5.

Increase in the price of gas

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA
Sir, Mr Posner's arguments against "inverted tariffs" (February 5) that they would apply to the undeserving rich like himself and not only to the deserving poor, could equally be applied to all social security benefits like old-age pensions, unemployment insurance, health insurance, etc. which are paid to everybody entitled to them without a means test.

It is essentially the same argument as that used by some members of the present Government who wish to dismantle all social security payments which provide "indiscriminate benefits" irrespective of true needs.

The fact remains that an inter-departmental investigation based on a careful analysis of the family expenditure survey conducted some five years ago had shown that a three-tier tariff of the type used in Japan would relieve the burden on 92 per cent of all poor pensioner households; 82 per cent of all council tenants; 84 per cent of all consumers with incomes up to supplementary benefit level; 85 per cent of all consumers with incomes up to 20 per cent above supplementary benefit level. (See *Energy Tariffs for the Poor*, Department of Energy, 1976).

These figures were calculated under the assumption of "revenue neutrality" which implied that the cost of the lower charges on the first two tiers are clawed back through a higher rate for the top tier. However, since the expected revenue under the Government's scheme is far above that required under the terms of the Act, the price charged for the highest tier need in this instance be no higher than the rate of inflation plus 10 per cent, as the Government's proposal. So nobody would in fact pay more.

As the *Cheshire Herald of Arms* suggested in his letter to *The Times* (February 2) a scheme of this kind would enable the "army of officials" required to deal with supplementary benefit claims and "the old and the sick who are obliged to struggle through winter weather to queue and argue in dismal Government offices" to be reduced by four-fifths or more.

The unemployed couple like Mr Posner would also find that it may be regrettable, but it is a small price to pay for the social benefit.
Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
Kier's College,
Cambridge,
February 5.

Reviving civil defence

From Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeeoch
Sir, Professor Howard's cogent argument (January 30) for an energetic civil defence policy merits powerful support. By far the most important contribution which Great Britain can make to NATO, and hence to her own defence, is to be seen as, an indispensable main base for the support of operations in western Europe.

As things are, even non-nuclear bombardment, now possible with much enhanced range, penetration and precision, could neutralize this country. Given that NATO strategy is grounded upon the use of quite powerful aggression by "conventional" forces, the capacity of the main base to withstand "conventional" bombardment must be a key factor. There is no time to lose.
Yours faithfully,
IAN MCGEOCH,
Castle Hedingham,
Halstead,
Essex,
January 31.

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Yours faithfully,
IAN MCGEOCH,
Castle Hedingham,
Halstead,
Essex,
January 31.

A home for the Turners

From Mr Anthony Hobson
Sir, It is splendid news that the Clore Foundation will give £5m to build a gallery for the Turners (report, January 22). But why must it be in London? And if in London, why next to the Tate Gallery?

The concept of a vast national museum in which all the country's masterpieces are concentrated was originated by Napoleon. It was a characteristic invention of a man interested less in art than in power. Whatever the advantages of a centralized national library, those of centralized museums are open to question.

Smaller collections can be far more enjoyable to visit and satisfying to work in, besides being easier to administer. A detached Turner Gallery could be a source of as much delight as the Frick Collection at the Mauritshuis.

Use it not to ignore imaginative art, the Clore Foundation's magnificent gift to restore a great nineteenth-century mansion to hold the Turners? They would then be housed in surroundings of their own period, and a work of English architecture that might otherwise disappear would be preserved. The Tate should learn from the example of the French, who are restoring Anne de Montmorency's chateau of Ecouchy to hold the national collection of Renaissance works of art.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant
ANTHONY HOBSON,
The Glebe House,
Fordingbridge,
Hampshire,
January 22.

Footnote to a tragedy

From Mr Douglas Jay, MP for Wandsworth, Battersea North (Labour)
Sir, In your article on February 4 about William Rodgers MP, it is stated that Evan Dierba lost his life "rescuing some of the Jay children" off the Cornish coast. Actually, he rescued one of his own daughters and another girl.

My family at the time were in a neighbouring bay, and only heard of the tragedy one and a half hours later.
Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS JAY,
House of Commons,
February 5.

Trade unions and the rule of law

From Mr Robert Alexander, QC
Sir, Lord Wedderburn (February 4) may admire the immunities of trade unions, but it is dangerous if such an eminent lawyer buttresses an essentially political argument by suggesting that their privileges have existed for a century. Those that give rise to judicial and public disapproval are mostly new.
The 1875 and 1906 Acts did no more than give immunity, first in criminal and then in civil law, for those who encouraged employees to strike. They simply removed obstacles to use of the strike weapon. But recent legislation has gone much further.

The 1974 Act as amended in 1976 widened the definition of a trade dispute. The consequences were stated by Lord Wilberforce in *MacShane's* case: "Correspondingly, industrial action has been greatly widened. It may extend to customers or suppliers of a party to a dispute, on the basis that through them pressure on a party is intensified. . . . It may extend to customers or suppliers of such customers or suppliers."

"Such second stage customers or suppliers may, and probably will, have no dispute with those calling for the industrial action, and no interest in the first stage dispute though some of their workers may have sympathy with it."

"Moreover they may, as here have no means of influencing that dispute by making concessions which might bring that dispute to an end."

The immunity has also been extended to cover not only, as formerly, action which induced a breach of an employment contract, but also action which induced a breach of commercial contracts.

Thus, in an increasingly interdependent society, industrial action may be taken to lay the chain from the party to the dispute provided the union thinks that such party will be affected in the end. In the middle of the chain, those who have nothing to do with the argument suffer.

Much has been made of the disagreement between the Court of Appeal and House of Lords as to interpretation of the law. The former took account of its belief that the law Parliament could not have intended to give to those such extreme and unfair consequences, but the House of Lords felt unable to annul this presumption.

They recognized, however, that the right to inflict such damage tends "to stick in judicial throats" to quote Lord Diplock. Read properly, their decision smacks of reform of the law is needed and not, as Lord Wedderburn suggests, that we should rejoice in the law as it stands.

For him to suggest that it has stood in this way for so long, and so claim that history is on his side, does the duty of a disservice. The most objectionable elements in trades union statutory immunities are modern.
Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ALEXANDER,
1 Brick Court,
Temple, E.C.4.

From Mr Nicholas Scott, MP for Kensington and Chelsea (Conservative)
Sir, Mr Edward Grayson is right to remind us (February 5) of the legislation of Disraeli's Government of 1875, but Conservative tradition of sympathy to the trade union movement goes back much

further than that to Lord Liverpool's Government, which passed the 1824 Act establishing workers' rights to combine and form trade unions.

This was described by Sydney and Beatrice Webb in their *History of Trade Unionism* as "the most impressive event in the early history of the trade union movement."
Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SCOTT,
House of Commons, SW1,
February 5.

From Mr Nevil Johnson

Sir, Mr MacShane (February 5) may have got the matter the wrong way round. The intent of Lord Denning's judgment was surely not to substitute men for laws, but to assert that the law must define limits. Given our positivist traditions he was at risk here and the Law Lords have in effect said that the issues raised cannot be resolved in the way proposed by the Court of Appeal.

The sense of their judgment appears to be that, as the law stands, there are virtually no limits to what persons or unions in a trade dispute may properly do in furtherance of the dispute, provided, of course, they do not fall foul of the criminal law.

In one sense no doubt this can be viewed as reliance on measures or law rather than men. The implication seems to be that the only way of dealing with the problem now is through legislation. Yet at the same time the Law Lords' judgment renders us for the moment wholly dependent on men rather than law in any serious sense of that term. For in essence it means that under present law the community is handed over entirely to men and whatever they choose to do.

This does not, however, get rid of the problem which I assume prompted Lord Denning's judgment. If the law is to be set to what people may lawfully do in pursuit of what subjectively they assert to be their interests? A system of law and justice entails such limits, for without them law is but sanctioned arbitrariness and justice a mockery.

Those who, like Professor Lord Wedderburn, and I suspect Mr MacShane too, believe that the present law on action in furtherance of trade disputes is perfectly satisfactory are simply refusing to recognize this underlying problem. No matter how they wish to be in favour of a system of law and justice, but they want to give trade unions the right to contract out of it insofar as it suits their interests to do so.

Such a proposition is incoherent and no society in which there is a serious concern for justice as equal treatment under the law can tolerate its consequences indefinitely.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE JOHNSON,
Nuffield College,
Oxford,
February 5.

From Mr Nigel Curtis

Sir, Lord Denning may be strong-minded but the court comprised two other Judges who both agreed with his judgment.
Yours faithfully,
NIGEL CURTIS,
Green Corner,
Green Lane,
Stammore,
Middlesex,
February 1.

Deciding when to perform an abortion

From Professor W. H. Thorpe
Sir, It seems to me that a curious mistake permeates much of your correspondence on abortion. What is of supreme value to mankind is the existence, not of ova and sperm, but of persons. The physical basis of a person can only be brought about by union of the ova. In normal human beings one ovum is lost every month of adult life and millions of sperm. Once the two come together the basis for a human person is provided. But surely no one can argue that the ova is more than a potential person.

A fetus which has barely started to be able to coordinate its senses, and certainly cannot make choices, cannot be described as a person. The matter of personhood is decided gradually, not by sudden fiat, but in its parental care and love will later play a crucial role. It is surely irresponsible, if not worse, for a couple to proceed with parenthood unless they feel able and willing to provide for their offspring the loving environment needed.

I believe that the vast majority of responsible people would agree that pregnancy should be terminated if there is a clear risk of a handicapped or defective child being born. But I would agree with Professor Glanville Williams (January 31) and with I believe most medical men, that to make serious damage to the health of the mother the only justification for abortion would be a disastrous step; the future infant should surely be considered as well.

Contraception, whether by physical or medical methods or simple abstinence is not murder. It is a gift and responsibility which has been bestowed upon mankind mainly in the twentieth century, and we should indeed be grateful for it.

Obviously the longer a pregnancy has lasted the more reluctant a normal woman will be to terminate it; and if the outlook for a reasonably good childhood is present she will rightly hesitate to do so. But it is the parent's ineluctable responsibility to make the choice as soon as the situation is clear. This is primarily what Christian marriage is about.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. THORPE,
7 Springfield Road,
Cambridge,
February 4.

From the Auxiliary Bishop of Shrewsbury
Sir, It is distressing that there are "sixteen thousand women students and schoolgirls who will have to have unwanted babies or resort to backstreet abortionists each year if the Corrie Bill goes through" as the National Union of Students claimed (report, February 4). It is distressing because there is another option open to them.

Those who support the Corrie Bill are only too aware that they must pay the price of their support, and this we have consistently done. Might I repeat in your columns the pledge which the Shrewsbury Diocese gave in 1972, and which each of the other 27 dioceses and pro-life organizations in England, Scotland and Wales can match:

"Any mother-to-be, Catholic or non-Catholic, is guaranteed immediate and practical help, confidentially and at no expense to herself, if faced with the dilemma of an unwanted pregnancy; she is prepared to allow the baby to be born and not aborted."

"This help includes, if she wishes, the care of her baby after birth. All the resources of the diocese are placed behind this pledge."

The pledge still stands and has saved many hundreds of lives. We are equipped to look after any unwanted pregnancy in the United Kingdom. A bold statement, but true.

If only it were possible to perform the transplant of an unborn infant from the womb of his/her unwilling mother to the womb of a mother who would be prepared to list of those who are desperate for a baby and cannot achieve their ambition!

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BREWER,
7 Springfield Road,
Aldershot,
Cheshire,
February 4.

From Mrs Walter Pridemore
Sir, "Sixteen thousand women students and schoolgirls will have to have unwanted babies or resort to backstreet abortionists each year if the Corrie Bill goes through," the National Union of Students has just claimed.

"Will have to"? Is sexual intercourse actually compulsory in schools and colleges nowadays then?
Yours faithfully,
ANNE PRIDEMORE,
Sarkers,
Rusper,
Borham, West Sussex,
February 4.

Common law wives

From Mr Colin G. Bass
Sir, Our mothers and fathers who formed the English language did not intend us to "live together without benefit of clergy" (Philip Howard, February 4). That is why they omitted a simple word for it.
Yours faithfully,
COLIN G. BASS,
Leighton Park School,
Reading,
February 4.

Banishment of Dr Sakharov

From Professor R. Penrose, FRS, and others
Sir, In your issue of January 24 you reported how, in connexion with Sakharov's exile from Moscow, the Russian newspaper *Izvestia* described him as "an extremely vain and conceited person" who became tired of theoretical physics and decided to seek prominence in politics.

While Sakharov's right to live in Moscow should in no way depend on how much scientific research he carries out, we presume that *Izvestia's* statement was intended to weaken his position. We should therefore like to emphasize that this statement is not correct.

We have before us now a copy of a research article by Sakharov on the Barometric System of the Universe, which was published in the leading Russian physics journal in April, 1979. This article is an important contribution to the present discussion of the problem posed by the paucity of anti-matter in the Universe. This discussion involves the latest developments in elementary particle physics, and their possible links with the Big Bang is the most exciting recent development in cosmology.

We are heartened that Professor Sakharov is still able to make a significant contribution to science despite the pressures which must be borne on him, and evidence that the Russian authorities should support their cruel treatment of him by belittling his recent scientific achievements.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER PENROSE,
STEPHEN HAWKING,
MARTIN REES,
DENNIS SCIAMMA,
University of Oxford,
Mathematical Institute,
24-29 St Giles,
Oxford,
January 30.

Gold and convertibility

From Mr L. A. Farnley
Sir, Mr Rees-Mogg's article (February 1) is most illuminating as a reflection of the beliefs held by a certain school of economists.

It is largely based on the assumption that labour is the swamping component of production costs. However, overheads are usually calculated as a multiple of direct labour cost; this multiple varies from 2.5 to 5 times of labour cost. They are thus the swamping component.

True, overheads contain a considerable non-labour element (others are capital servicing, energy costs, management expenses etc.).

Mr Rees-Mogg states that British labour rates are the lowest in Europe (BSC's labour costs per ton of steel are the lowest in Europe). However, overheads for our industries are due to an inadequate proportion of modern plant and/or inability to utilize it fully. A number of social factors are also responsible, but this is not the place to discuss them.

Ensuring high productivity is the function of the labour force in the first instance: the labour force's direct contribution to productivity is relatively small.
Yours faithfully,
L. A. FARNLEY,
11 North End House,
Fitzjames Avenue, W14.

Concert troubles

From Mr Arthur Jacobs
Sir, The press coverage of the letter from Mr David Ashton and others (February 2), is marred by their remarking that "it would be sad never to hear the Amadeus give another performance of the 'Trout' Quintet with an English bass-player."

There is the oddity of implying that the members of the Amadeus Quartet are not themselves English, or as any rate British (Her Majesty the Queen was not of that view when she awarded each of them the OBE). Still odder is the suggestion that a string quartet "plus" double bass would tackle the "Trout", for which Schubert stipulates violin, viola, cello, double-bass, and piano.

Yours truly,
ARTHUR JACOBS,
Head, Department of Music,
Cardiff Welsh Polytechnic,
February 3.

Out of the ordinary

From Mr Giles Barber
Sir, In her informed survey of English cookery books Sheila Huchins (January 31) suggests that the first public restaurant opened in Paris in 1782 and was called the Grande Taverne de Londres. There is scope for interpretation as to what can be defined as a restaurant but a usually preferred date for a public establishment providing fortified and restorative soup for consumption on the spot is 1765. In 1767 Diderot wrote to Sophie Volland, "Je sortais de la pour aller dîner au restaurant de la rue des Poulx; on y est bien, mais chère enfant, c'est un lieu."

Sheila Huchins's point that English cooking was appreciated in France received, for me, surprisingly modern confirmation recently when faced in Paris with "saucisses anglaises avec pommes de terre mousseline" but that was in Le Pub Sir Winston Churchill.

Yours faithfully,
GILES BARBER,
Librarian,
Taylor Institution Library,
University of Oxford,
St Giles',
Oxford,
January 31.

Too high a price?

From Mr H. O. Dovey
Sir, Beaumont must consider his "painful calf injury" and "Udder" as a "very serious wound" well worth suffering for the England XV's famous victory in Paris (report, February 4). But what of Woodward who, Peter West tells us, "scythed off his left foot"?
Yours faithfully,
H. O. DOVEY,
1 Nunery Drive,
Theford,
Norfolk,
February 4.

LAING
make ideas take shape

Stock markets
FT Ind 453.9, up 8.1
FT Gilt 65.48, down 0.21

Sterling
\$2.3125 up 2.20 cents
Index 73.0 up 0.5

Dollar
Index 84.9 down 0.2

Gold
\$17.5 up \$32

Money
3 month sterling 17 1/2-17 3/4
3 month Euro \$14 1/2-14 3/4
6 month Euro \$14 1/2-14 3/4

IN BRIEF

Takeover Panel's new chairman is confirmed

Sir Jasper Holman, former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, has been confirmed as the new chairman of the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers.

In a brief statement yesterday Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank, said he had accepted "with much regret" the decision of Lord Shawcross, the current chairman, to relinquish the post which he has held since 1969.

Mr Richardson paid tribute to Lord Shawcross's "outstanding contribution over this period to developing the work of the Panel and to enhancing its standing."

Sir Jasper succeeds with effect from June 1.

Building at nadir

Builders started work on fewer new homes (219,600) in Britain during 1979 than in any year since 1951. The number of new houses completed (234,700) was also the lowest for 28 years, while the total of public sector homes started (80,500) was the smallest since the Second World War.

Halewood talks go on

Talks went on throughout yesterday in a bid to resolve an unofficial dispute over work schedules at the £125m Ford car plant at Halewood on Merseyside. It has cost production of 1,600 models worth more than £4m to date.

Bids for Meccano

Talks over the future of the Meccano toy factory at Edge Hill, Liverpool resumed yesterday, when a joint working party of management and unions discussed offers from outside buyers. A proposition from the Derby-based Sherwood Investments Group was rejected as too low, but a bid by the Age of Enlightenment, a Meccano Group is still being considered.

Random House sold

Random House, one of the most important book publishers in the United States, has been bought by Newhouse Publications, owners of the Conde Nast magazine group.

£50,000 job on offer

The Co-operative Wholesale Society, the £1,700m-a-year sales organization which supplies goods and services to retail Co-op outlets, has advertised for a successor to Sir Arthur Sogden, who retires as chief executive in September. A salary negotiable above £50,000 with matching benefits is being offered.

Steel foundry to close

O & H Steel foundries and Engineers of Sheffield, part of the Weir Group, is to close with the loss of 850 jobs. Weir said the subsidiary had made large losses in the last two years.

Typewriter shock

Typing of Belfast, the sole remaining typewriter factory in the United Kingdom is likely to close within the next few months. The factory employs 370 people manufacturing portable typewriters. The company had already announced the redundancy of 100 employees, but yesterday disclosed the probable total closure.

Peugeot-Citroen pledges \$100m loan to Chrysler in partnership package

From Frank Vogel
Washington, Feb 6

Two of the world's largest car makers, Peugeot-Citroen of France and America's Chrysler Corporation, have made a tentative pact that could have far-reaching international consequences.

Peugeot-Citroen today announced its intention to make a \$100m loan to the financially ailing Chrysler and to negotiate a whole range of cooperative ventures with the American company.

A spokesman for the French company said in Washington that it had so far entered only into a "memorandum of intent" with Chrysler. When asked if the company planned eventually to take an equity stake in Chrysler, the spokesman said: "Absolutely not. This has not even been mentioned."

Chrysler owns 15 per cent of the outstanding shares of Peugeot-Citroen but the French company will now have the right to buy these at a market related price by December 31, 1980, if it proves impossible to conclude a range of business agreements with Chrysler by June 1 this year.

Mr Lee Iacocca, chairman of Chrysler, said that the loan from the French company and the tentative agreement represented "important participation" in the efforts to strengthen Chrysler.

The terms of the Peugeot-Citroen loan must first be approved by Chrysler's banks and by the United States Government.

In 1978 Chrysler sold its European operations, including its British manufacturing plants

and organization to the French company. It received at the time 1.8 million shares in Peugeot-Citroen representing 15 per cent of the French company's shares. At the same time the deal lifted a \$400m debt burden from Chrysler.

Today's announcement points to potentially major joint ventures between Chrysler—the sixth largest car manufacturer in the world—and the French company.

The agreement aims primarily to strengthen Peugeot-Citroen's presence in the North American market. Talks will now be launched on how Chrysler can help its new lender strengthen Peugeot's sales and marketing organizations in the United States and Canada and promote the large Peugeot 604 car and both the diesel and petrol versions of the smaller Peugeot 504.

The companies stated that the talks will be to enable Peugeot-Citroen to reach a degree of market penetration that corresponds to "the sales levels of its principal European competitors" in North America.

Also, the companies have agreed to discuss ways in which Peugeot can help Chrysler adapt its models to American market needs. At the same time the French company will be providing Chrysler with technical assistance.

The talks in coming months will concern the means of promoting an "expanded interchange between the two companies of various types of mechanical and other automotive components and the supply by Peugeot of diesel engines to Chrysler."

Possibly the most far-reaching

development, one that could eventually lead to some merger discussions, concerns plans to develop jointly a new car that may be sold in the United States under both the Chrysler and the Peugeot names.

The aim here would be to produce the new car in the United States and develop different versions of it. Peugeot has already done development studies that could be the basis of this new car. The talks are also to consider joint study of a light commercial vehicle.

Spokesmen for the companies refused to divulge any details of the terms of the loan or of the pricing of the 1.8 million shares of Peugeot-Citroen stock held by Chrysler that might be bought by the French company if the joint venture negotiations collapse in coming months.

On this latter point the companies said only that if necessary the value of the shares would be determined by an independent expert.

Mr Iacocca underlined the importance of the agreement by noting that "the potential of future cooperation on certain products and components is a strong indication of our intention to work closely with our Peugeot partners as we gear up for the markets of the 1980s."

It seems clear that the loan is aimed solely to provide Chrysler with needed cash flow for the next few months until the longer-term aid package, of \$500p a share, forced Ralac to declare that it planned to make another bid for Decca.

It did the trick. Decca's shares moved up sharply ending the day at 55p, a jump of 21p for the ordinary and 41p for the "A" in both cases above GEC's terms.

However, Ralac's intention of producing a second bid for Decca yesterday did not materialize. Meetings were still going on but what is likely to be an offer in equity and cash of around £87m. This is around £5m more than GEC's counter to Ralac's opening bid of £82m in equity.

Both sides now hold a strategic stake in Decca's volatile capital. In Ralac's case it is around 6 per cent, a stake which has been topped up since it



Sir Derek Rayner: efficiency review will look into overseas contracts.

The Confederation of British Industry agreed that it, too, would contact European employers to ask for similar cooperation.

Referring to the problem of inadequate market orientation and fragmented marketing effort raised by NEDO, Mr Murray said that the solution was "too important to be left to marketing directors" and should involve everyone in the company. In general, he said, "Britain is good at exporting but bloody poor at importing."

He suggested that task forces representing the CBI, TUC and the Government should look at individual sectors which have been particularly hit by import penetration.

Stock Exchange expels Mr Terence Webster after inquiry into gilt-edge transactions at Hedderwick, Stirling, Grumbar

The Stock Exchange has expelled one of its members, Mr Terence Webster, after a 15-month inquiry into his gilt-edge dealings with partner at stock brokers Hedderwick, Stirling, Grumbar & Co.

Among the charges proved against Mr Webster by the disciplinary committee is that he acted in a disgraceful manner "for personal gain."

Four other members have also been named in the disciplinary proceedings. Of these two Hedderwick partners Mr John Bindon-Howell, and Mr David Hypher have been suspended from trading for three months while associate member with Hedderwick Mr John Piggott, has been suspended for one month. Mr Colin Franklin, Hedderwick's managing director, has been censured.

All five men have resigned from Hedderwick since the charges were first made public. Mr Webster is charged with having acted in a disgraceful manner and "contrary to the best interest of certain clients of the company in not obtaining the best possible market prices for clients" but instead acting

to benefit certain discretionary accounts.

He is also said to have concealed from Hedderwick that a certain discretionary account was being operated "wholly or in part for his personal gain."

The Stock Exchange also reports that Mr Webster acted in breach of the rules by transacting business between two clients without going through a jobber.

Through his lawyer, Mr Webster yesterday denied the charges. His solicitor said: "Our client was informed by the investigating committee that he would be given the opportunity by that committee to answer any specific allegations made against him. This opportunity was then denied to him."

"Thereafter, out of a series of allegations, only one identified bargain fell within the ambit of the charges which were held to be proved against him."

"He repeats his denial of the allegations against him which were and are without foundation."

However, the Stock Exchange points out that Mr Webster did

not take the opportunity to appear before the appeals committee although he knew the extent of the allegations being made against him.

Although the charges and disciplinary action have so far been internal the City of London Fraud Squad has now been called in by the Stock Exchange to investigate the gilt transactions.

Mr Wallis Hunt, Hedderwick's senior partner-designate, explained that Mr Webster's dealings came to light after a complaint by a new junior gilt dealer in February 1978 about Hedderwick's dealing style.

Although the dealer later agreed that he understood the system when he left a few months later to join another firm, he suggested that some of the charges against Hedderwick's senior partner Mr Ralph Hedderwick asked the Stock Exchange to institute an inquiry. Mr Webster left the firm at the end of 1978.

Mr Franklin, Hedderwick's managing director, admitted yesterday that one of the

hazards of his job was to accept overall responsibility when things go wrong.

However he added: "Though I find it incongruous that the Stock Exchange findings rely heavily on the evidence of the very person upon whose assurances I also relied, it is against everyone's interests to prolong this long drawn out affair any further."

Although it is thought that in only one transaction were Hedderwick's clients put at a price disadvantage, Mr Hedderwick admitted yesterday that some of the firm's clients had stopped dealing through Hedderwick during the investigation.

Mr Webster, who became a member of the Stock Exchange in 1970 joined Hedderwick's from Vickers, de Costa in 1974.

The last member to be expelled by the Stock Exchange was Mr Lewis Altman in September 1978, after his conviction on charges of conspiring to defraud the Exchange Control Act.

GEC puts pressure on Ralac in Decca battle

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

General Electric Company put Ralac under pressure again yesterday in the Decca takeover battle by announcing that it had been into the stock market and spent £2,500,000 buying up around 7 per cent of Decca's voting capital.

That and the possibility that GEC might extend its market operation while the Decca price remained below the GEC terms of 500p a share, forced Ralac to declare that it planned to make another bid for Decca.

It did the trick. Decca's shares moved up sharply ending the day at 55p, a jump of 21p for the ordinary and 41p for the "A" in both cases above GEC's terms.

However, Ralac's intention of producing a second bid for Decca yesterday did not materialize. Meetings were still going on but what is likely to be an offer in equity and cash of around £87m. This is around £5m more than GEC's counter to Ralac's opening bid of £82m in equity.

Both sides now hold a strategic stake in Decca's volatile capital. In Ralac's case it is around 6 per cent, a stake which has been topped up since it

began the takeover attempt. With Decca's capital so closely held—some 17 per cent was in the hands of the late Sir Edward Lewis, its chairman, and his family, and other sizable blocks are held by institutions—Ralac simply could not afford to let GEC build a dominant interest.

Ralac meanwhile was busy in the market on its own account, selling about half its stake in Advest, an engineering company, for about £27m.

Ralac's brokers, Carr Seabag, added that Ralac had undertaken not to sell the remaining holding for at least six months.

The Advest stake, which was sold yesterday at 184p, is one of a number of investments made by Ralac as it built up surplus cash resources over the past few years.

Yesterday's sale has obviously been construed in the market as preparation for the next bid for Decca, for which Ralac will have to include some cash if its share price is to take the strain in the ensuing battle.

Having fallen since GEC emerged with its cash counter-bid Ralac's shares held more or less steady yesterday at 212p.

Financial Editor, page 21

Call for earlier Civil Service pay talks

By Caroline Atkinson

The new Treasury and Civil Service committee, in its first report yesterday on the Government's proposals for changing cash limits for Civil Service pay, called for earlier pay negotiations and greater openness.

The committee was unhappy about the Government's proposal to announce a cash limit for Civil Service pay increases in the spring and only allocate the money between departments in July.

At a Press conference yesterday the committee announced the setting up of a subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Mr Robert Sheldon, former junior minister at the Treasury.

The subcommittee will have special responsibility for taxation and some details of public spending.

The full committee, chaired by Mr Edward Du Cane, intends to study the whole range of the Government's fiscal and monetary policy on a long term basis. It hopes to report fairly often to Parliament and to widen the debate about economic policy.

Its predecessor, the old expenditure subcommittee, was quite successful in opening up discussion about the Government's economic policies, in particular its public spending plans.

The new committee hopes to call witnesses from the Bank of England as well as from the Treasury and it has already appointed specialist advisers to look at particular areas. Dr Alan Budd of the London Business School, Mr Terry Ward of Cambridge University's Department of Applied Economics, and Dr Paul Nield from stockbrokers Phillips and Drew are to look at public spending and economic policy. Mr John Kay from the Institute of Fiscal Studies is to help on taxation. Other advisers may be appointed later.

The committee will prepare special reports on the Government's spending White Paper due next month, and on the Budget.

The public accounts committee will publish its report on the Treasury proposals for the Civil Service cash limit next week. There appeared to be some disagreement among members of the Treasury committee over whether cash limits should take precedence over pay and jobs, or whether cash limits should be set only in the light of pay negotiations for civil servants.

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Yesterday's boost for the pound was probably triggered by the banking figures for Tuesday which suggested that interest rates will remain high in Britain for some time.

There was a revival of interest in gold yesterday. This rose back over \$700 to close at \$712.5 an ounce. The rise of \$32 in the day was said by some dealers to be connected with the weaker dollar. Some dealers believe that currency holders are beginning to diversify out of dollars again, and are heading for sterling and gold first, followed by the traditional hard currencies of Germany and Switzerland.

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NEDC is warned against using oil revenue to buy food

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Problems which have prevented British manufacturers from competing more effectively against overseas producers dominated the monthly National Economic Development Council meeting yesterday. The discussion on trade performance overran to such an extent that it ousted the second main topic, competition policy, from the agenda—a measure of the seriousness with which industrialists, unions and the Government alike view the country's present trade position.

Mr Geoffrey Chandler, director general of the National Economic Development Office, in a paper based on reports from sector working parties, pointed out that the loss of only 2 1/2 weeks worth of exports would wipe out manufacturing industry's contribution to the purchase of essential primary commodities. Mr Chandler said the country was moving close to the point where revenue from oil "is purchasing food and raw materials."

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, accepted that the background was bleak but said that the Government's policy was not only intended to protect British industry from unfair and disruptive imports but also to promote exports.

His conclusion was that a balance has to be struck between protecting industry from unfair imports and the need to avoid actions which might provoke retaliation from export markets. Mr Nott implied that industry was not making sufficient use of existing protective measures which he said had greater coverage and extent than was generally realized.

Government action was promised on two of the points raised in the NEDO paper. Sir Derek Rayner, who is at present conducting a Whitehall efficiency review, is to be asked to look at the problem of securing overseas contracts which are large or complex and they require special financing or collaborative arrangements.

A joint Treasury and Department of Industry initiative has already been set up to study public sector purchasing arrangements. Mr Nott said the NEDO working committees would be asked to give more support by early volume ordering and by encouraging new products and technology to British manufacturers.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, pledged the TUC's support in approaching the equivalent European organization to ensure that import protection regulations are observed.

because of scandals. In December Saudi Arabia suspended shipments to the Italian state energy group ENI after reports that Saudi officials received bribes.

The Salem incident has already provoked legal action in London. Oil Arabid International, which claimed it owned the 193,000 tons of crude carried by the Salem, Shell alleged it bought the cargo from Pontil after the tanker left Kuwait.

But that the oil was unloaded at Durban, in South Africa, and that the tanker was subsequently sunk.

Although the EEC's response might appear weak it has to be set against the past conduct of

EEC to tighten credit rules against Russians

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Feb 6

The nine member states of the European Community have agreed to take a more restrictive line in officially backed export credit for the Soviet Union as part of their response to the invasion of Afghanistan.

At their meeting in Brussels last night, EEC foreign ministers agreed that the Nine should in future permit no expansions in the existing OECD arrangement on export credits as far as the Soviet Union is concerned.

Although the EEC's response might appear weak it has to be set against the past conduct of

certain member states which have been only too happy to flourish the OECD arrangement. Also, by taking this admittedly minimalist stand on export credits for the USSR the ministers have probably ensured that the issue will play a role in negotiating the OECD arrangement later this year.

The present OECD arrangement has applied since April 1, 1978, and is due to expire this May. It stipulates minimum interest rates for export credits and a 7.5 per cent rate for the short term credit and 7.5 per cent for the medium term credit.

The European Commission was due today to adopt a draft mandate for the negotiations on the OECD arrangement. This mandate is expected to be discussed by economics and finance ministers at their meeting in Brussels next Monday.

Although EEC sources stressed that there was no link between Afghanistan and the

forthcoming OECD negotiations, the fact that the United States has been pushing its allies to take action against the Soviet Union on the export credit front almost guarantees that the issue will remain alive in the context of the discussions at the OECD.

Apart from Afghanistan, there is a widespread feeling that the present minimum interest rates are too low in view of the worldwide rise in interest rates over the past year. Some countries also feel that the Soviet Union should be classified as a relatively rich country and so be subject to tougher credit conditions.

Among the Nine, France appears to be the least enthusiastic supporter of tougher export credit terms for the USSR. But for French resistance, last night's statement by the EEC foreign ministers would probably have been stronger. Although the French delegation subscribed to the agreement there are doubts as to whether Paris is in tune with its spirit.

EEC sources said that the French had been leading the charge on export credit line for the Soviet Union was not covered by the restrictions even though it needed to be periodically rolled over on the grounds that it was granted before the OECD arrangement was agreed.

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£14m order from Iraq for Leyland

Iraq has placed a major order worth £14m with Leyland Vehicles, the truck and bus subsidiary of BL and Willowbrook Worldwide.

The order is for 200 Leyland Atlantean double-deck buses, which will be operated by Baghdad Passenger Transport Services.

The new vehicles will have bodies manufactured by Willowbrook of Loughborough.

Commenting on the deal, Mr Frank Andrew, Leyland Vehicles sales and marketing director, said: "This is excellent news because it represents a come-back for Leyland in a very important market."

Workers' plea refused

United States Steel Corporation will dismantle a big plant at Youngstown, Ohio, despite requests by workers that they be allowed to lease or buy it. Congress was told in Washington. Thousands of workers stand to lose their jobs. But Mr Joseph Dembeck, United States Steel vice president said the plant was worn out and largely obsolete.

Foreign cars in Italy

Foreign cars accounted for 57.200 units, or a 39.5 per cent share, out of the total 145 million cars registered in Italy in 1979. This is a rise of 13.4 per cent from the previous year.

Ford parts slowdown

Ford-France SA, a unit of Ford Motor Company of the United States, has announced in Paris it will reduce activity at its two parts plants in Bordeaux, from February 18 to the end of April.

Record cognac sales

Sales of cognac worldwide rose by 11.5 per cent last year to an all-time high of 151.7 million bottles, the Cognac Producers' Association says in Paris. Exports increased by 14.3 per cent to 120.6 million bottles, and in value terms were 24 per cent higher at 2,900m francs (about £314m).

South west England and central Scotland set to be strongly contested

Two TV franchise bids announced

Two groups bidding for commercial television franchises, one in the south west of England and the other in central Scotland, announced their plans yesterday.

Contenders for the franchise held by Scottish Television (STV), covering the main industrial areas of Scotland with an audience of around 4,250,000, include Caledonia Television, a consortium which has newspaper interests and whose chairman is Lord McCuskey, the former Solicitor General for Scotland and an Edinburgh QC. There is already one other contender for central Scotland, an Edinburgh-based actors group called Better Scottish Television.

The challenger for the franchise held by Westward Television is Television South West, a group representing local interests and formed three years ago by a Cornish artist and a television industry executive, both as yet unnamed. There are rumours of a further south west contender emerging before May 9, the final submissions date for all franchise applications to the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA).

The Scottish franchise in 1978 was worth £2m in net profits before tax to STV, after paying £3m levy to the IBA on a £20m turnover.

At a press conference held in Glasgow by Caledonia, Lord McCuskey promised television service to central Scotland had been available from STV.

The group forming the new television company includes Mr Derek Webster,

chairman of the Scottish Daily Record & Sunday Mail Ltd; Mr Fred Johnston, chairman of a Falkirk-based local newspaper group; Viscount Weir, chairman of Great Northern Investment Trust; and the



Lord McCuskey: backing Caledonia Television for a higher standard of programming in Scotland.

Marquess of Bute. The deputy chairman of the company is Mr Hugh Pitt and advisers include Mr Hugh McIlvanney and Mr Ludovic Kennedy.

Lord McCuskey said that deepening dissatisfaction with the independent television service to central Scotland had been evident for a number of years. The great responsibility which possession of the IBA franchise placed upon the contractor had not been fulfilled even adequately.

That was why, he said, a group of television professionals, either Scots or working in Scotland, took an initiative more than three years ago, why resourceful business and private interests had given determined support, and why the company had been formed.

STV has been increasing its spending on programming, particularly on drama production. It puts out ten hours of programmes a week, of which it expects to have a week to go out on the national network.

Television South West's board of directors includes Mr Charles Ansell, a farmer and former chairman of Devon County Council; Sir John Colfax, chairman of the Land Settlement Association and a former High Sheriff of Dorset; Lieutenant-Commander Douglas, chairman and managing director of Cornwall Aero Park; the Earl of Idlesleigh; Mr Gareth Keene, secretary of Dartington Hall Trust; Mr John Peters, a retired businessman; and Mr Keith Sykes, joint managing director of Waits, Blake, Bearn and Co., a china clay company based at Newton Abbot.

Mr Peters said the group was adequately funded "from local resources as well as City institutions". He added: "Westward is trying to improve its service but we feel it is too late. It is time for a change."

Derek Harris
Ronald Faux

Chemicals market threatened

By John Huxley

Britain's performance in the market for high-value, specialised chemicals, now worth more than £600m a year, could be damaged by the decision of some companies to cut back on production.

An industry sector working party says that the range of products available in the United Kingdom has been reduced by the decision of two large companies to close plant or rationalise output.

Yesterday the working party told the National Economic Development Council that it was not fully convinced that these cuts were fully justified, given the potential in the sector.

It added that smaller companies which play an important part in the production of specialised organic chemicals, are also being hard hit by high financing costs, and were postponing or cancelling investment projects.

This threat to the sector, which employs up to 15,000 people, comes when it appears to have achieved an objective, set four years ago, to eliminate the overall trade deficit in specialised organics, which are used mainly in pharmaceuticals and pesticides.

£1.5m plan urged to promote computer use

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

Computer-aided techniques for design and manufacturing should be adopted more widely in British industry, a Cabinet Office report published yesterday says.

The Department of Industry should spend £1.5m over three years to increase industrial awareness of the benefits. And a new Institute of Computer-Aided Engineering should be set up through a merger of relevant work at the National Engineering Laboratory and the Computer-Aided Design Centre.

The report is published by the Cabinet Office's Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development, and has been written by a working group chaired by Sir Robert Clayton, technical director of GEC.

Introducing the report at a press conference yesterday, Sir Robert said that the United Kingdom was noticeably but not irrevocably behind other countries in the application of computer-aided techniques in design and manufacturing, and the gap would widen if the British Government failed to take action.

Assessing the present status of computer-aided design and manufacture in various sectors

of industry, the report says that in mechanical engineering applications Britain lags behind other countries, notably the United States and Japan. In both mechanical and electrical engineering, the main incentive for the introduction of computer-aided design is the shortage of skilled staff.

With the possible exception of small companies the United Kingdom is not behind other countries in the exploitation of computer-aided techniques in the electronics industry.

In the aerospace industry, pioneers of advanced computer-aided techniques, the United Kingdom practice appears to be ahead of the general level elsewhere in Europe but behind that of the United States and Japan. The larger companies in the chemical industry are "well up with world practice" but the smaller ones are not as advanced.

Computers are now indispensable in the analysis of major structures in the construction industry, but there are many other relevant applications. In marine engineering, also, computers are widely used in certain areas of design.

("Computer Aided Design and Manufacture", HMSO, £2.25).

US reckons oil nations' surplus at \$110,000m

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, Feb 6

The United States Treasury has increased its estimate of the current account balance of payments surplus on oil exports to \$110,000m (about £48,000m). Opec had an estimated 1979 surplus of \$65,000m.

The latest oil price increases appear to have added to the treasury's concern about international financing difficulties likely to arise this year. Earlier this week Mr Anthony Solomon, the Under-Secretary for Monetary Affairs, told a congressional committee that the lendable resources available to the International Monetary Fund must be increased.

Mr Solomon gave a warning that "we have to anticipate that a number of countries will develop and developing will encounter growing financial difficulties and pressures to adjust and bring their external positions closer into line with sustainable flows of financing".

The treasury expects the combined current account deficit of industrial countries this year to total \$50,000m, with the deficit of oil importing developing nations amounting to \$60,000m.

Mr Solomon said that the IMF was already processing requests for balance of payments financing that far exceeded the total drawn in all of 1979.

Government officials estimate that the United States will have a modest current account deficit this year. After being roughly in balance last year, the Department of Commerce announced that the trade accounts measured on a balance of payments basis, showed a deficit of \$7,920m in the final 1979 quarter after a deficit of \$7,310m in the previous quarter.

The total 1979 deficit on this basis was \$29,130m, which is \$4,600m below the 1978 level. However, officials expect that the trade deficit this year may be still higher due to the sharp increases in oil prices. America's oil import bill alone could amount to \$100,000m.

Mr Solomon told the international trade sub-committee of the House of Representatives banking committee that the proposed 50 per cent general increase in the IMF's quotas was essential to assure the adequacy of the fund's resources. Financing needs would very likely intensify during the next several years.

He emphasized that a strong IMF was necessary given the mounting financing needs of nations, the "stark and sobering prospects for the world economy and the fact that events in Iran and Afghanistan had created a climate of concern and uncertainty."

In his capacity as current chairman of the IMF interim committee, he will visit the Fund's headquarters in Washington, Madrid, Mexico City, Caracas, Brazil and Argentina.

Signor Pandolfi intends to follow this with a visit to the main oil producing countries of the Middle East before the end of March. The minister, who remains optimistic despite gloomy forecasts from the United States about prospects of seeing up the account, hopes to achieve a broad political consensus about its role before the interim committee's next meeting in Hamburg in late April. This should clear the way for technical negotiations to start afterwards.

That was why, he said, a group of television professionals, either Scots or working in Scotland, took an initiative more than three years ago, why resourceful business and private interests had given determined support, and why the company had been formed.

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Derek Harris
Ronald Faux

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Publishers' payment practices

From Professor N. Polunin

Sir, In the lamented absence of our old friend and many years' neighbour, the late A. Herbert, I am venturing to take up the cudgels myself and celebrate the most welcome return of *The Times* by writing about an inquiry which has long troubled me as a British author and book editor as well as family man, and which seems especially devastating now that I have just heard from my bank manager in Oxford that we are having to pay 20 per cent for overdrafts. I refer to the payments of royalties to British publishers of paying royalties only once a year to their authors and royalty-earning editors on whom, after all, they are primarily dependent.

This practice may not be anything like universal among British publishers but must be widespread as all five of the well-known ones with whom I am (or have until fairly recently been) involved do not pay until about four months in the new year—if indeed then, without special prompting—the royalties which they have been collecting from the beginning of the preceding year.

As a result of this, they will commonly have been holding,

when they pay an author, some of his or her money for up to about 16 months and, during that time, will in a sense have been "earning" up to about 23 per cent on their earliest receipts for each year.

I realize, of course, that this presents only a part of the situation, but feel strongly that it is a matter which needs remedying—*inter alia* in the best interests of the publishers themselves, who must be experiencing losses of authors and editors to other countries where better treatment is available and probably the rule.

British publishers ought at least to be prevailed on to do what I once (but only once, for my first book with them) persuaded one leading group to do, namely pay me in the middle of each year an advance of approximately my expected entitlement for the preceding six months. Their American counterparts have always paid me twice yearly—outright and promptly.

Yours faithfully,
N. POLUNIN,
15 Chemin F. Lehmann,
1218 Grand-Saconnex,
Geneva, Switzerland.
January 30.

From Mrs Stuart Rose

Sir, As a picture researcher I welcome Mr Leslie Orrey's letter (January 31) complaining of the high cost of illustrations. Increasingly I find myself squeezed between the owners and the publisher; the latter is concerned primarily with publishing rarely seen illustrations at a reasonable price. The owners, with their valuable collections to insure and maintain, are becoming more and more expensive.

To make a special case, when the Copyright Institute have made one of their excellent surveys of a great house they are fully justified in making a charge for the use of their negative, but if the owner then adds his reproduction fee the illustration becomes too expensive.

Many public museums and galleries charge reasonable prices, but there should be a public body somewhere which fixes a ceiling for reproduction fees. Otherwise we may see the end of informed illustrated books.

Yours faithfully,
STUART ROSE,
Illustration Research Service,
25 Balcombe Street,
London NW1 6EE.
February 1.

Challenging arithmetic of state pensions

From the Chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds.

Sir, As Mr Nottage (January 30) seems bewildered by his own figures, perhaps I may enlighten him. In his original article he analysed the private sector thus: Contracted-in: 12 million; Contracted-out: 5 million; total 17 million.

He deduces from this that the majority of employees work for "contracted-in" employers. He is a victim of his own sloppy terminology. There is, in fact, no such thing as a contracted-in employer, only one who has not contracted out.

Most of his so-called contracted-in employees work for employers who have contracted out, but because these employees do not currently satisfy age, length of service or other conditions, they have not yet become members of the pension scheme which has been used as the vehicle for contracting out.

A closer analysis of the situation would have revealed the following picture:

Scheme members	Employer	
	In	Out
1m	5m	
2m	9m	
3m	14m	

Others
Prudential House,
Wellesley Road,
Croydon CR9 9XY.
January 31.

Impractical to recover gold from the seas

From Mr M. B. F. Ranken

Sir, Mr Aros Vechr's romantic suggestion (January 29) of extracting precious metals from sea water is I fear not far removed from the dreams of the alchemists. One cubic mile of sea water weighs 4,206 million tons, so that 40 lb of gold is equivalent to only 44 parts of gold in one million million parts of sea water. Silver is less than 100 times more plentiful (and uranium 1,000 times), hardly amounts to excite the bullion market even in these heady days of crazy speculation (and quango bashing!).

The sea contains about 330 million cubic miles of sea water or nearly 6,000,000 tons of gold, but Dr Fritz Haber, a famous German chemist in the twenties, failed after 10 years in his dream of paying off Germany's World War I indemnity by extracting some of it.

Fresh water and salt, bromine and magnesium are extracted, and fish and seaweed are harvested from the water column; several min-

erals are dredged and mined on and below the seabed, as well as large deposits of oil and gas, all these providing large numbers of jobs for those prepared to work. Some gold is dredged off Alaska and maybe off Australia and New Zealand, but these are small risky operations.

However, a real benefit of the current high gold prices might be to make salvage men look again at the economics of recovering bullion and may be some other valuable cargoes from several wrecked ships around the world's oceans, particularly in the light of the enormous strides in deep-water work techniques which have been made in the past 10 years.

The sea may be mankind's least exploited treasure house, but she is also man's hardest task-mistress.

Yours faithfully,
M. B. F. RANKEN,
28, Clare Lawn Avenue,
London, SW14.
January 30.

Industrial opportunities for the talents of young engineers

From Mr A. M. Muir Wood

Sir, The Finlinton debate on the future role of engineers in manufacturing industry was bound to start the contest between centres of engineering education as to "which are the fairest of us all". It might be as well if we at least started by dispelling the hoary myth that "engineering" is a term interchangeable with "technology". It is not, and those who perpetuate the confusion evoke the suspicion that they are concerned with the education and training of technicians and not of engineers.

The essence of education, particularly apt for professional engineers, has been expressed with great precision by Sir Charles Inglis, for many years a revered and effective head of Cambridge University's engineering department, in his presidential address to the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1941.

The first tasks of a that basis of mind which remains with a student long after he has forgotten everything that he has been taught."

The first tasks of a university/polytechnic are thus to arouse curiosity and to provide a foundation of principles upon which the graduate can build by insight and experience—mostly personal but partly vicarious—of the real world of engineering. It is good that each engineering department should contain those with direct recent practical experience and should maintain close links with the appropriate industry; but these virtues should not override the fundamental need for the academic excellence of the staff.

Engineering uses science and technology, but it entails much more besides, so that it rightly claims to be recognized as a link between the arts and the sciences. Tradition of the *nische hochschule* on the one hand and institutes of technology on the other should not at the present day be regarded as paradigms of perfection without the appreciation that the separate education of engineers is presently understood as "a well-earned concession from the philosophy of their graduates of a regard for the social and qualitative factors which should attend engineer-

ing decisions.

At their best, our abilities to educate and train engineers are as good as the best. A number of our most able young engineers are emigrating because they do not find adequate scope in United Kingdom manufacturing industry for their talents, and because they are in high demand in those countries which continue to provide opportunity and challenge.

This is the fundamental problem and until it is recognized and redressed, we have no hope of improving dramatically the engineers' contribution to industry. If the engineering leaders are encouraged and enthused many of the other problems of poor supporting engineers and technicians could be established into an adequate framework. Engineers recognize that appropriate education necessitate prior identification of the problem, and the quality of the present debate would benefit from this "sound bottom".

Yours faithfully,
A. M. MUIR WOOD,
Franklands,
Berkshire RG8 8JX,
January 31.

False charge on telephones

From Richard Woods
Sir, Despite my feelings over the recent two increases in postal charges, I feel that Mrs Bennett ("Telephone rarer" February 4) is being less than fair to the Post Office when she accuses that organization of gouging a 240 per cent increase in coin-box charges from 2d to 2p on decimation of the currency in 1971.

In fact the minimum coin-box charge prior to decimation was 6d, equivalent to 23p, and therefore the minimum charge was actually reduced by 20 per cent at that time, although I believe that the length of call allowed was also adjusted.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WOODS,
37 Sloane Street,
London, SW1.
February 5.

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مكتبة الأصيل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The stalking of Gold Fields

Consolidated Gold Fields is naturally concerned about the current heavy undisclosed buying of its stock. The abolition of exchange controls means that a foreign buyer or buyers of shares in United Kingdom companies is under no obligation to declare its or their interest until the 30 per cent level prescribed in Rule 34 is reached. Even then, a company which does not register transactions could hold more than 30 per cent without the Takeover Panel either knowing or being able to take action.

A British buyer, by contrast has to declare an interest of 5 per cent or more under Company Law. We are now therefore in the position that British and foreign buyers are not subject to the same rules, with the obvious implications for United Kingdom shareholders. It was always an anomaly that foreign purchases, which had to receive Treasury consent if they were more than 10 per cent of a company, should have been governed by exchange control regulations rather than Takeover Panel or other rules.

If current interpretations that foreign buyers or a buyer have at least 8 per cent and possibly as much as 28 per cent of Consolidated Gold Fields are correct that anomaly has been well and truly demonstrated. Preventing warehousing and action

world is none the wiser about the extent of the expelled member's misdeeds, save that he has been in breach of the Exchange's fairly widely-drawn rules.

That apart, The Stock Exchange has done a reasonably good job in overhauling its disciplinary procedures. Two years ago the Council concluded these were too rusty to cope with the changing securities markets and this was given a helping hand when Lewis Altman, whose stockbroking firm had been suspended by The Stock Exchange, challenged the system by taking out an injunction preventing his case being heard without legal representation.

Since then the Council has brought in most of the requirements of a domestic tribunal which has made the disciplinary procedure rather less summary than it used to be. The most important step was the introduction of legal representation for the accused and an appeal procedure to The Stock Exchange as a whole.

As the Hedderwick case has shown, the mechanism can be a lengthy process. It is perhaps lucky then that only about half-a-dozen cases come to the disciplinary committee a year. Any more and it is doubtful if the system could cope. But at least The Stock Exchange has adapted rather faster than Lloyd's for example in ensuring that its standards are upheld.

● Rascal's second tilt at Decca never materialized yesterday, but the market is looking for an offer of around £87m this morning, some £5m more than GEC's cash terms. The interest though will centre not so much on the value of a Rascal offer but on how it is made up, which may explain why Rascal's board remained locked in a meeting until late last night.

There was no obvious sign of an underwriting operation of Rascal stock in the market yesterday, so the odds must be on an equity/cash mix, perhaps narrowing GEC's 25 per cent differential between the ordinary and the non-voters.

Then, of course, Rascal's share price at 212p, down 1p yesterday, and which has been showing sign of strain ever since GEC decided to make it a fight over Decca, will be in the cauldron. Anyway, Rascal fell from down and out at this level. It clearly is going to bid again (though it had to make that known rather earlier than it wanted yesterday to block GEC's market buying operation) and it probably wants Decca badly enough to take GEC to £90m or possibly a little more. At £90m, though, on the available evidence, Decca is beginning to look expensive, with around £30m of goodwill in the price.

Dowty Group

Huge boost from China

Dowty Group has caught market pessimists on the hop once again. Interim profits of £17.4m are 23 per cent up on last year and a long way ahead of outside estimates which ranged as low as £11m.

Gloom ahead of the results centred on the effects of the engineering strike. But although the stoppage did hit profits—possibly to the tune of £3m—returns from the £65m Chinese mining equipment contracts made a much bigger impact than the market had bargained for.

Even though demand for mining equipment is beginning to fall away at home, a continuing boom in aerospace should ensure full-year profits of around £42m against £31m last time. Yesterday's 19p jump in the share price to 186p could tempt profit-takers especially as next year's prospect of a follow-on in orders from China.

That, however, would be to deny yet further long-term growth prospects in a share which has not failed to outperform the market for the last five years.

Although Dowty is now possibly running into a cyclical downswing on the mining front aerospace growth looks guaranteed to continue to mushroom well into the second-half of the decade.

Profits next year may rise only a further £2m to around £44m, but thereafter Dowty should return to its more normal 20 per cent per annum growth rate.

The 60 per cent interim dividend increase is an equalization move, but shareholders should be able to look forward to a 25 per cent increase in the total payment which would make a yield of 3.6 per cent against a p/e ratio of around 7.

The elation of last May's election victory and the trumpeting of the Tory faithful that greeted last June's (income) tax-cutting Budget must seem as good a way as the Government labours towards the decisions it is going to have to take before March 26.

To say that the Government created its own bed of nails by the actions it took last June may seem a cheap trick to make—particularly with the benefit of hindsight. It could equally well be argued that the adoption of a rather different strategy last June could have thrown up equally difficult, if perhaps rather different problems.

Argument over what the Government should or should not have done in its maiden Budget is, therefore, not the most productive ground for digging over. The fact is that the Government adopted what it admitted to be a bold but high risk strategy and is now in danger of seeing that strategy bogged down in the mud—specifically the mud of higher than expected wage and price inflation and departmental resistance to adequate public spending cuts.

It might, perhaps, be argued that such an assertion is premature and that in one area at least, the Government's strategy is starting to produce effects. While average earnings have continued to race ahead at a wholly unsustainable rate, unemployment has indeed started to rise. But whether that can be put down exclusively to the link between monetary policy and income—its supply has in most economists' books been growing appreciably faster than sterling M3 might suggest—is a moot point. It

may equally well be that other structural, cyclical and longer term factors have played at least an equally important role. Certainly, at this precise moment in time, with the Budget only seven weeks away, the linkage between monetary policy and wages can hardly be considered a moot point.

Government to make any grandly optimistic assumptions about earnings over the coming 12 months.

It may be that things will turn out better than expected on this front, and clearly there is every reason for insisting that a relatively tight monetary policy must be maintained. But when it comes to taking Budget decisions, it would be wrong for the Government to take risks by making over-optimistic assumptions.

Outlook

The inflationary outlook does not look good; the public sector's financial prospects do not look good; the Government knows it needs to be tough. If it is not, it will live to rue the day.

The public sector borrowing requirement may have become one of the more loathed pieces of economic jargon in the seven-ties—it is certainly a very difficult figure to predict—but reduction of the PSBR remains an essential part of the Conservative Party's disinflationary strategy.

That is to say that, over time, the Government aims to reduce the public sector borrowing requirement as a percentage of the gross domestic product, on the grounds that borrowing by

government is excessive and excessive borrowing leads to the creation of too much money. That does not, of course, preclude the PSBR rising in money terms so long as the gross domestic product is rising faster.

The Government's strategy is not, however, quite as simple as that. The idea is to reduce the PSBR as a proportion of GDP over a period of years. It recognizes that during cyclical downturns in the economy (and we are now moving into one) rising unemployment means lower tax revenue, higher social security benefits and consequently upward pressure on the PSBR. The Government recognizes this and is prepared to make allowances for it.

Hence the arrival at the idea of bringing down the ratio of PSBR to GDP in a series of steps, rather than in a straight line. There are, however, steps and steps. The pertinent issue is the design of the staircase.

On unchanged policies one would expect the PSBR to rise as a proportion of GDP during a recession, for the reasons I have just outlined. A second interpretation of "stepping" would be that the PSBR should simply remain a constant proportion of GDP for the length of the recession, with the fall in tax revenue being made up by a corresponding increase in the end of the recession have into sight.

That would imply very much more restrictive policies and is probably the policy the Government is aiming to adopt. It would certainly be the minimum needed if the Government was also looking for any further marginal tightening of the money supply and some reduc-

tion in interest rates. Arguably, it would also offer the Government the best hope of approaching the 1981-82 Budget with the prospect of 10 per cent price inflation not too far over the horizon.

Such a policy does, however, quite clearly imply that something has to be given particularly since the outlook for the PSBR already looks unenvying enough just on unchanged policies—possibly rising from an expected £3,000m to so for the present year (against a forecast £8,300m) to something over £11,000m. And that is in spite of higher oil revenue flows and a full year's benefit from last summer's VAT increase.

Taxes

There are three ways of looking something off this prospective PSBR figure. One would be to cut the public spending element in the underlying PSBR figure; a second would be to reduce the impact of higher unemployment on the PSBR; a third would be to raise taxes.

Put another way that means cutting public spending programmes, reducing the real value of transfer payments (including such things as housing subsidies, child benefits and the like), raising taxes, or some combination of the three.

Clearly, the Government's preference would be to take the axe to public spending programmes. It is, of course, finding this a rather more difficult task than it bargained for, both in the sense of calling for direct cuts and in the more covert sense of trying to apply tight cash limits that imply volume

cuts if the rate of increase in the wage bill does not abate sufficiently.

The amount to be cleaned on this front is, then, clearly going to be insufficient this year. Some help will come from the probable de-indexation of some transfer payments, but beyond that the government has more serious problems.

A rise in excise duties on drink, tobacco and cuts in rent subsidies would both result in upward pressure on prices and there is a strong school of thought that suggests that the fast thing the government should do after last year's experience with the VAT increase is to risk adding further to wage demands.

It is further argued that raising interest rates to lower the PSBR does not particularly help lower interest rates either since in raising prices it also tends to raise the money value of GDP that has to be financed.

On the other hand, the prospect of tempering with income tax cannot be an attractive one, either, to this government. A decision not to index personal tax allowances fully for inflation, as required under the Rooker-Wise Amendment in the 1978 Finance Act, might seem relatively painless (and would save anything up to £2,000m), but it would certainly need some explaining.

Maybe the time has come for the Government to stop telling people simply that there are certain basic truths to be faced in economic life and to tell them that the low inflation solution actually involves a certain amount of pain.

John Whitmore

What future for the stockjobber?

Unlike other important stock markets, London maintains a single capacity structure: stockjobbers are market makers and principals; stockbrokers, who deal directly with investors, are agents. That system is now threatened by a forthcoming Restrictive Practices Court hearing into the Stock Exchange Rule Book. The future of the stockjobber is thus in doubt.

Andrew Goodrick-Clarke, "The Times" Financial Editor, invited Mr David LeRoy-Lewis (right), chairman of Akroyd & Smithers, one of the two largest stockjobbers in London, to respond.



authorities are able to further monetary policy by exercising control of the timing of new issues and determining the price of the open market operations. Under regular tender system buyers would be waiting for the next issue and there would, therefore, be less continuous control of the market which would become more volatile with the consequent reduction in liquidity.

Why are profits on equity business so much more difficult to come by? Could equity jobbing survive in its present form without low-risk profits in most years?

The activity, together with the level of profits, in the stock market has to be related to the national economy. The table shows the gross amount of new issues in Stock Exchange securities during the last ten years. The growth of the public sector borrowing requirement and the loss of industrial confidence during this period directed investors towards the gilt market. In 1970 institutional interest was 38 per cent and that of individuals 45 per cent; in 1975 the respective figures were 47 per cent and 38 per cent while in 1979 the estimates are 54 per cent and 25 per cent. The effect on the equity market of the growth of institutional interest in the United Kingdom listed securities market during the period must also be taken into account.

Institutions, with the high quality research available to them and the need to invest their increasing cash flow, tend to have a heavy influence on the markets. Consequently, the variety of individuals' investment decisions. Profitable two-way market turnover is thus restricted. It is, therefore, easy to appreciate why profits on equity business have been so elusive in recent years.

I believe that the division of future jobbing profits between political and economic conditions, such as a significant reduction of PSBR and the inflation rate, the return of industrial confidence and the fiscal encouragement of individual portfolio investment, are factors which would mean more profitable equity jobbing and reduce the importance to jobbers of gilt-edged profits. They also illustrate the need for jobbing firms to cover the market of the main reasons for the emergence of the large jobbing units. Under such changed conditions I believe equity jobbing should survive in its present form. If conditions do not change, the system will be vulnerable.

How would you like to see jobbers developing and is there any value in mergers, perhaps with merchant banks?

Any alternative dealing system that emerges must provide a profitable, efficient, continuous and liquid market. Critics of the present system should illustrate how the new system of their choice would operate better than the jobbing system. The new system must enable business to be transacted more efficiently? Why what is meant by "dual capacity"? deal more readily with closer dealing prices than jobbers? Will market users wish to deal with broker-dealers acting in dual capacity rather than, as at present, through brokers acting as their agents?

I do not believe that jobber mergers with merchant banks would solve any of the present problems. Merchant banks are already permitted to subscribe capital to jobbing firms within certain limitations. I believe that a more balanced profit relationship between gilt and equity markets would emerge, involving as necessary in response to changing conditions and supported by the use of the techniques provided the future dealing system for United Kingdom domestic issues.



Lord Erroll of Hale, chairman of Consolidated Goldfields.

by concert parties has never been easy, but as events concerning St Piran have suggested, they are even harder to control if the principals are abroad.

In the case of Gold Fields, the matter is more serious. It is one of the biggest British companies and the second largest miner of gold in the world. Gold Fields should be well able to defend itself. But it is hard to defend oneself against an unknown bidder, especially if he already has about a quarter of the equity. Moreover, the outlook for smaller companies is ominous if stock market majors can be stalked from abroad in this way.

It remains to be seen whether any action should be taken over the Gold Fields affair—if, indeed, it proves necessary. But this clearly is a problem that must exercise the minds of those on the City Working Party now working on another revision of the Takeover Code.

Self-regulation

Stock Exchange style

The last thing the City can afford to do at the moment is sweep any of its peccadilloes under the carpet. The onus is very much on its institutions to convince the outside world that self-regulation not only works but is seen to work without fear or favour—even if it does sometimes show City bodies up in a bad light.

But in common with many other domestic tribunals for professional bodies, there is some concern that being judged by one's peers is a little too inbred for comfort and regulatory bodies really should be set up in a way that they are seen to have some independence from the body it purports to regulate.

At this delicate stage then there can be no slippage by the City. So yesterday's move by The Stock Exchange to invoke the full force of its rule book in expelling one member and disciplining three others from stockbrokers Hedderwick, Stirling, Grumbar for gilt dealings "contrary to the best interests of clients" is the very least the Council could have done.

The Council's statement, however, still falls some way short of the kind of detail the Takeover Panel can muster when it goes to town on a recalcitrant. And at the end of the day it can be argued that the outside

Business Diary: Rhodesia's rates on the house?

Now is the time when the council treasurer's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of the rates and that of the ratepayer to how he or she is going to pay them. The City of Westminster, the authority with the highest rateable value in the land, is now engaged in a battle to try to alleviate the burden of rates payable by pressing for the payment of rates owing on a property since July 15, 1969.

That was when Rhodesia House in the Strand was vacated after the declaration of UDI and since then the rates have been mounting. By March 31, 1980, the total will be £224,578.79 and the council—encouraged by the return of Rhodesia to legality—wrote to the Foreign Office in December, asking it to arrange with the Treasury for the payment of the outstanding debt.

The FO has yet to reply, but the council does not expect to hear until after the Rhodesia elections. John Wheeler, MP for Paddington, has been assiduously asking questions in the House, but so far has drawn a blank.

Donald du Parc Bramham, chairman of the council's Finance and scrutiny committee, said Business Diary: "Quite frankly, the whole matter is bogged down in procedural red tape. It is a diplomatic nightmare. He said that while the matter was now "legal" it still lacked a government. I am hopeful that something will happen, but I doubt very much whether we shall be paid



Photograph by John Manning

Entertaining chaps, these balliffs: a statue adorning the exterior of Rhodesia House, London.

the effect of coups and other national catastrophes. The result is that £58,177 is owed by the Uganda High Commission for rates since June, 1977 and £86,777 by the Iraqi Embassy; £27,206 is owed on hostels for Nigerian Embassy staff, and £11,583 on what were in 1975 Cambodian government premises.

● Many hands will not be making light work at the Sheffield factory of Wolf Safety Lamp Company tomorrow when the 40 production and office staff are to get the afternoon off and a fiver each to mark the fiftieth anniversary in business of their chairman, Monica Maurice.

Miss Maurice began in the company's law father started when she was 21. In private life she is Mrs Jackson and her son John is Wolf's managing director. It is unlikely therefore that the idea of an afternoon off met with much opposition in the boardroom.

In 1938 Miss Maurice became the first woman member of the Association of Mining Engineers and remained so until last year. The company began with the sales agency for a new miners' lamp from Germany before the 1914-18 war, after which it made them. In the 1939 war the Germans bombed the factory, possibly in pique.

Wolf lamps are now used in oil tankers as well as in coal mines the world over and Miss Maurice was made an OBE five years ago for services to industrial safety.



"I bet the TV boffins are worried that the televising of Parliament won't come in time to show the Prime Minister declaring war."

● The good health of the port of Dover is a matter of concern to about ten million people who make their way through it each year to and from the Continent, among them 1.3 million motorists and 500,000 lorry drivers. Most might say that its health is reasonably sound, despite an explosion of development in recent years.

Much of the credit must go to the flamboyant character who has just retired after 15 years in charge there—Ken Davis, general manager to the Dover Harbour Board. In the last five years alone he has presided over £20m reconstruction programme that has seen the arrival of Seaspaced's sumptuous hoverport, the Jubilee Way taking traffic from the cliff-top directly to the ferry port with-

out gumming up Dover's shopping streets and the two new two-tier, two-lane berths.

A very different personality now takes over. William Allen is a quiet 61-year-old civil engineer, who has had 34 years with Dover, the last six as Davis's deputy. The chairman of one of the most important ports in the world is perhaps most needed for the next four years—a period of steady consolidation as the welter of new developments is digested.

Nonetheless, he said yesterday: "I see no limit to Dover's growth, though it may be slower than before, especially for passengers if the Channel Tunnel is built." He sees freight as Dover's bull point in the eighties, despite the challenges from Ramsgate or Sheerness.

● Ada, Lady Lovelace, who is generally thought to have been the first computer operator in history, is to be immortalized by a new computer language. It is "Ada", developed by a Honeywell team in Paris with B. A. Wichman of the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington, Middlesex.

Four years ago, the United States Department of Defense, concerned that it was using no less than 350 computer "languages", decided to standardize.

Four contractors were asked to come up with designs and the winner was the only one from outside America—CII Honeywell led by Dr J. Ichbiah in Paris. Wichman did some of the sums for CII.

Lady Lovelace, the daughter of Lord Byron, worked with Charles Babbage, the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, and the generally acknowledged father of modern computer, in the 1830s.

A holiday firm has chartered Concorde for a one-day trip to Paris in March. The cost, which includes the flight out by Concorde and return by Airbus, is £299. The trip will cost twice as much and take half as long again as in a less glamorous plane. Concorde will have to go over the Bay of Biscay to go through her supersonic paces.

Ross Davies

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Equities spurred by hopes of steel peace

Hopes of an early end to the steel strike and further developments in the Decca bid gave equities renewed confidence yesterday.

The dismal bank lending figures on Tuesday provided glimmers with another bumpy ride although they did manage some recovery towards the close.

Equities, however, held most of the market's attention with dealers reporting some brisk trading right from the word go. Reports in the morning newspapers that the steel unions had been having secret talks with top executives of the British Steel Corporation in Luxembourg since Monday, gave investors the boost they had been looking for.

Once again the electrical sector held the limelight with Rascal's announcement that it was considering proposals to make a further bid for Decca providing a further fillip.

Nevertheless, while some strong buying was encountered, it proved to be selective. But it was enough to pay little heed to the threats by the engineering workers at British Leyland to go on strike unless the communist shop steward Mr. Dorel Robinson was reinstated. Most were more attentive to the news that the steel talks are expected to make some progress on Friday.

Gold shares, too, were active in line with the latest rise in the bullion price which rose \$3.25 to \$317.15 ahead of the IMF gold auction in New York.

Gilts made a cautious start still reflecting Wednesday's dismal bank lending figures, which appear to have wiped out all hope of an early reduction to the 17 per cent rate. Indeed, some pessimistic voices could be heard talking about a further rise in base rates. The CBI report which expressed growing concern about the liquidity problems facing British industry did little to help. But in spite of all this, dealers were able to report only sporadic selling initially, which was more than offset in the end

by bear closing and a strong performance by sterling.

So by the close things were beginning to look brighter with earlier falls in longs of about £1 being transformed into rises of about a £1 on the day.

Shorts too made progress and with very little selling in evidence falls of about £1 were turned into rises of between £1 and £1.50.

This confident tone was carried on throughout after-hours and was clearly reflected in the FT Index which closed in the highest point of the day being 8.1 up to 453.9.

Leading industrialists mirrored the firm trend with some sizeable gains in a quiet but firm market which left them finishing at the top. Rank Organisation led the way, rising to 6p to 220p. Others to show gains of between 3p and 5p included ICI at 37p, Glaxo at 47p, Fisons at 28p, BAT at 26p, Beecham at 12p and Reed International at 19p.

Meanwhile, the electrical sector continued to draw the most attention as the battle between the giants began to heat up. GEC

which has weighed in with an £83m cash bid for Decca improved 10p to 366p. But Rascal which announced its intention to make a further bid slipped 3p to 210p, before recovering 2p on news that it had sold 1.1m shares of its stake in Adwest, 8p lower at 188p, through brokers J. Sebag.

All this excitement proved too much for investors who piled in ready to buy anything connected with the electrical industry in the belief that it was sure to be taken over. As a result Plessey rose a further 5p to 138p accompanied by Electrocomponents — 8p up to 488p; Beech 2p better at 101p; Bowthorpe 6p higher at 112p; Diploma advancing 2p to 428p and Eurotherm International 8p higher at 331p. Unitech made further ground after its recent half-timer and acquisition news, rising 8p to 268p. But Ferranti fell by the same amount to 48p on profit taking.

Engineering was in a good mood spurred on by the latest turn of events on the steel front. Metal Box jumped 12p to 248p, followed by Tubes 6p up to 288p and GKN 3p stronger at 265p. Dowty surprised most of the market with its interim profits which were £3m above most estimates and were rewarded with a 19p rise to 186p. Only brokers Hoare Goveatt came anywhere near predicting the outcome.

A first-half loss at Jobbers Smith Bros was somewhat offset by an optimistic forecast for the second and the price finished only 1p easier at 32p.

after an initial fall of 2p. Among other financials reporting lower first-half profits, United Dominions Trust lost 2p to 42p but Sterling Trust closed 3p better at 171p after its preliminary announcement. Satisfactory trading figures at paper group Benn Bros was rewarded with a 1p rise to 67p.

Continued hopes of an increased offer from Blue Circle Industries, 4p higher at 288p, prompted a 1p gain in Armitage Shanks at 98p. Speculative interest was good for improvements in Compair 2p to 78p, Laird Group 1p to 86p, Powell Duffry 5p to 133p and Style Shaws 13p to 173p.

Strong investment interest also provided for further rises in Filkington Bros. 10p better at 228p, Sotheby Parke Bernet 14p up to 507p and Channel Tunnel 8p to 110p.

An earlier mention in *The Times* gave Peter Brotherhood a 2p boost to 67p while news of stronger cooperation between Rockwell and Serck (Rockwell recently bought a 30 per cent stake) gave the shares a 1p nudge up to 69p. At 288p, Alcoa and Smithers rose 2p to 243p on the high volume of business being reported in the gilts market but shares of ICL managed to finish all square at 523p after a cautious chairman's statement at the AGM.

Ocean Transport and Trading continued to attract business in an otherwise thin shipping sector, rising 4p to 106p but Furness Withy were firm and inactive at 248p.

Stores bore a firm appearance although business was described as quiet, with Debenhams improving 2p to 90p after a favourable mention, along with House of Fraser 3p better at 132p.

Oils continued to make some progress following SNOC's announcement of further price increases.

The steel strike is not all bad news. Neil in the private sector have spare steelmaking capacity though the outlook will dim once British Steel is back at work. Neepsend is 45p and Neill 55p.

Rises in oil, although most interest surrounds the second line.

Lasmo jumped 40p to 485p on further rumour and reports of at least one large buyer in the market. This prompted an 8p rise in Cawoods which holds a stake in the former. Rises were more conservative among the majors with BP paid 6p at 364p and Shell 5p to 380p.

Gold shares advanced on the latest bullion price and the Gold Mines Index rose 18.5 to 344.8. Anglo American Gold jumped \$3 to \$92.1, West Driefontein \$11 to \$84.1 and F. S. Geduld \$4 to \$61.1. At the close, end of the market Datsun climbed 15p to 185p, Middle Wits 20p to 45p and UCI \$1 to \$103. Consolidated Gold Fields jumped 16p to a new high of 508p, after 514p, after news that someone had been buying secretly in the market and could possibly hold 4 million shares. Elsewhere, among London Financials RTZ advanced 13p on the back of the expanding copper price. Equity turnover on February 5, was £83.11m (13.826 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Lasmo, RTZ, ICI, Compair, Shell, Consolidated Gold Fields, GEC, Burnham, Blue Circle Industries, Marks & Spencer and Unilever.

Jobbers overcome first-half setback

By Peter Wainwright

Smith Bros, one of the big five jobbers on the London Stock Exchange, and by far the biggest in South African gold shares, lost money between May 5 and November 2 last. But it is making a lot of money now.

Pre-tax losses were £522,000 against profits of £223,000 in the same period a year earlier. The gross interim dividend duly divides from 2.24p to nothing. For the full year to April 30 Smith paid a total of 2.38p. The shares slipped 1p to 32p.

Mr Tony Lewis and his colleagues report that the first-half loss was more than regained in the third quarter, thanks to "very active trading conditions in the markets in which the company specialises". Not surprisingly, they hope the full year's figures will be "satisfactory". Dividend policy will be considered in the light of the full year's results.

Smith is the obvious and main beneficiary from the Stock Exchange Council's decision to allow jobbers to deal directly with overseas firms, but only for those firms' own portfolios.

Mr Lewis said: "It looks as if the new rules are the minimum the council could sanction. They represent only a small step."

Gold share business is clearly prospering and so must be the valuable business Smith does in Australian shares. United Kingdom equities are another matter. In the half-year to November 2 last, for instance, Smith started out with a huge bull position in United Kingdom equities. However equities began to crumble on the morning of the Conservative election victory.

UDT relies less on Bank 'lifeboat'

By Alison Mitchell

United Dominions Trust, the hire purchase and banking group, has further reduced its dependence on the Bank of England's "lifeboat" despite a downturn in half-year profits.

Although no figures have been mentioned, it is thought that borrowings from UDT's "leading banking friends" is now below £200m.

However, hit by the higher cost of money, profits in the six months to December 31 last slipped by almost a tenth to £7.9m against a previous £8.5m.

Although the instalment credit plan is still profitable, the rise in MLR to the current 17 per cent hit deeply into profit margins as business is written on fixed interest rates.

However, the group will get a downside benefit when interest rates recede and current business is reported as "good".

UDT Industries, a holding company for the group's commercial and industrial interests, has again increased its contribution.

Although there is no mid-year breakdown of figures, this division, which includes Swan National, eight motor distributors and a plant hire side, is expected to account for almost 50 per cent of profits by the year end.

UDT reports that in the six months under review the motor distribution side achieved record results while Swan increased its fleet size. By contrast the two engineering companies were hit by the national strike.

Last year this division accounted for £5.5m out of a total profit of £20m, and in the current period it is thought that it will step its surplus up to £9.5m.

Hopes that the dividend might be restored to the interim stage proved unfounded and the shares fell 2p to 44p. However, analysts are looking for a payment at the full year of up to 4.5p gross. This would give the shares, on yesterday's price, a yield of 10 per cent.

Rockwell opens talks on possible bid for Serck

By Rosemary Unsworth

Speculation intensified yesterday over a possible bid by Rockwell International, the American aerospace and electronics group, for Serck, the British value-added group, as discussions over the holding began.

Last week Rockwell paid almost £10m for a 29.7 per cent stake which it bought in the stock market for 75p a share. The United States group repeated yesterday that it had taken the holding as an investment and was looking for a "closer relationship" with Serck.

Serck's share price yesterday closed at 70p, 17p higher than its opening price on the day. Rockwell moved in. Serck's financial advisers, Robert Flem-

ing, said that the discussions were "wide ranging and exploratory" and that there were various options open. It confirmed that there would be more meetings and that an announcement could probably be made in weeks rather than days.

At 75p, Serck is capitalised at £2m, which compares with the £3m cash and share offer made by Associated Engineering three years ago. That bid was not allowed by the Monopolies Commission.

Since then Serck's profits have dropped back to £1.6m for 1979, although it is expected to recover to the £5m level this year.

Last year Rockwell bought a 29.98 per cent stake in Wilmot-Bredden and followed it up with a successful takeover offer.

Advance of one third at Benn Brothers

By Our Financial Staff

Benn Brothers, the publishing group, managed to lift profits by almost a third to £488,000 in the six months to December 31, despite difficulties in the book trade.

Turnover during the period increased by 22 per cent to £5.3m.

The group said yesterday that although market conditions are now harsher than last autumn, the group is well placed to maintain the momentum of the first half. In its last year Benn pushed pre-tax profits up to just over £1m, helped by a £100,000 contribution from property disposals.

During the interim period business journals made an in-

Cash-and-carry boosts Singlo to £565,000

Singlo Holdings, the tea producer-to-soft drinks manufacturer, pushed its pre-tax profits from £95,000 to £565,000 in the six months to September 30, 1979, compared with the previous 12 months.

Group turnover was more than doubled to £16.2m, although the Indian and Malawi tea companies showed sales falls.

Mr Michael Slocock, chairman, pointed out that improved performance reflected the first contribution from the Norman's cash-and-carry business acquired last year. He said that the Indian tea plantations' £372,000 profits reflected half the anticipated results for the year and half the anticipated profits for nine months from Malawi tea, which amounted to £18,000, but he added that no remittances have been received from India.

The Indian tea estates are to be sold to Caparo Group for £1.5m.

The interim dividend has been maintained at 0.74p gross.

Net asset growth at Countrywide Pros

A substantial improvement in the net assets position at property developers and house-builders Countrywide Properties is reported by Chairman, Mr S. Bobroff, in his annual statement.

Net assets have increased by 40 per cent during the 1979 financial year, following a 21 per cent improvement in 1978. Return on shareholders' funds was 49 per cent for the year. Balance-sheet net asset figures are at the lower of cost or net realisable value. No account is taken of increase in market values and the directors' opinion is that the current market value of group land stocks substantially exceeds the balance sheet figures.

Mr Bobroff says that Countrywide continues its policy of maintaining sufficient land stocks to provide two to three years' development work. Current stocks should, when developed, realise turnover exceeding £40m at present-day prices. Additionally, the group has a contract to purchase in phases a further 100 acres at Chelmer Village, Essex, for residential development.

In the year to September 30 last, the chairman's emoluments were £20,830, against the previous year's £7,950.

Imperial Group sells Rhodesia plant

Agreement has been reached for the purchase by Tobacco Sales Ltd. of Imperial Group's tobacco packing and storage plant at Salisbury, Rhodesia. The assets include the office and administrative blocks, as well as a residential estate, in an area of 276 acres.

Imperial has indicated its intention to resume buying Rhodesian tobacco in the coming season, subject to quality and price. This development results from a general review of Imperial's leaf-buying policy worldwide. Tobacco Sales is the local company which runs the tobacco auctions. No price is disclosed; Imperial also owns 10,000 acres of forestry land in Rhodesia, but has no plans to sell these.

Westminster Property back to profits

Shareholders of the Surrey-based Westminster Property Group, which last reported a dividend in 1978, are looking forward to the resumption of payments.

Special dividend from Pyramid

By Rosemary Unsworth

The discovery that Pyramid Group (Publishers) has been a close company since 1976 has prompted the payment of a special dividend to shareholders.

The board revealed that it had discovered one major shareholding company which had increased its stake and put Pyramid into close company status in late 1976. Since dividend restriction policy did not apply to close companies which are required by the Inland Revenue to make higher distributions, the distribution of dividends for the last few years have been at lower levels than were required by law.

A special dividend of 5p gross has therefore been declared which will be met from existing cash resources. The Inland Revenue has confirmed that it agrees with the company's rectification of mistake.

The board also said that it will consider the 1979 dividend when the full accounts are available and it will reflect the "business requirements of the group and its close company status."

A close company is one in which no more than five people control 50 per cent of the company. As the definition is derived from tax, rather than company law the Inland Revenue insists that earnings must be distributed as investment income and not left in the company. Even if the distribution is not made, the Revenue may demand the appropriate taxation as if the dividends had been paid.

In the last annual report Pyramid's three directors were shown to have a 56.7 per cent holding, while another 20.875 per cent was held by Goldheath, a private company.

In 1978 Pyramid made pre-tax profits of £250,000 on turnover of £1.37m. The total dividend amounted to 3.94p gross.

Dividend warning from Carrington Inv

Because of high interest rates, pre-tax profits of Carrington Investments fell from £48,000 to £30,000 in the half-year to September 30, 1979.

These rates rose again in November and so there has been a further fall in profits in the second half. The lower profits, combined with the fact that there are no waivers of dividends by directors this year, are likely to mean a lower dividend: a dividend of 3.42p gross was paid in 1978.

Capital profits on the sale of fixed assets and tax adjustments have given rise to a net surplus of £169,000.

Northern Foods' optimistic

Northern Foods' board reports that while the company will be affected by the current high interest rates and the general economic situation, most activities are making good progress and the inclusion of Bluebird from January will ensure that group profits and earnings per share will rise satisfactorily this year. The accounts show a surplus on the revaluation of properties by the board. NF's freehold and leasehold properties are valued at £20.56m—showing a surplus of £20.5m.

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Business appointments

Money broker names new managing director

Mr I. D. Garthwaite has been appointed managing director of Kirkland-Whittaker (Sterling Brokers) to succeed Mr K. Carpenter, who has resigned, and Mr A. J. Stone has been appointed an associate director.

Mr R. J. Kinig has been appointed a director of Jardine Matheson Insurance Brokers (Scotland).

Mr John Kavanaugh, managing director of insurance brokers Robert & Bedford Hobbs Savill is to be appointed chairman on the retirement of Mr David Dowling.

Mr Frank Noblett has been appointed director of parts supply of Massey-Ferguson's European parts operation.

Mr Michael Abbott has been appointed chairman of Henry Wigfall.

Mr Stuart Hughes has been appointed to the marketing board of Royal Doulton Tableware.

Mr Michael Firth has been appointed a senior regional manager of National Westminster Bank's Eastern Europe and Scandinavia regional office, based in London.

Viscount Caldecote and Mr Ivan Nicholas Montchiloff have been appointed additional

ICL chairman welcomes wider share base



Photograph by John Manning

Siemens's strong first quarter

Siemens AG of West Germany is "fairly optimistic" about its business in 1980 after registering strong rises in profit, sales and in the order inflow during the first quarter of the electrical group's current fiscal year which began on October 1, 1979.

According to Herr Bernhard Pletner, chairman of the management board, Siemens's first quarter, the consolidated net profit of the worldwide Siemens group climbed about 13.9 per cent to DM164m (about £39.3m) from DM144m in the quarter a year earlier.

Worldwide Siemens sales were up by 16 per cent to about DM7.1bn in the first quarter of the year from DM5.2bn a year ago while the order inflow of DM8.1bn was 15 per cent up from DM7.1bn.

Herr Pletner noted that the profit margin—the share of net profit in sales—was 2.3 per cent in the first fiscal quarter, unchanged in a year. While Herr Pletner refrained from projecting exact profit figures for the current year, he said

said he expects it to be better than in the year ended September 30, 1979. The growth rate of profit for the whole year may not be as high as in the first quarter, he added.

Kowloon Electricity loans signed

Loans of £108m and HK\$208m, both guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), have been signed in

London between Kowloon Electricity Supply Company (KESCO) and J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co, the managers of the loans, 17 other international banks and ECGD.

KESCO, which was incorporated in Hongkong in 1978, is owned 60 per cent by Eastern Energy, an Exxon affiliate, and 40 per cent by China Light & Power. KESCO is constructing and will own

a new 1,400MW power station at Castle Peak in the New Territories of Hongkong, the output of which will be sold to China Light & Power.

WMC Holdings

Western Mining Corporation Holdings of Australia says its nickel sales volume dropped by 16 per cent in the 23 weeks to January 8, but sales revenue in the period rose 36 per cent from a year earlier.

This reflected both higher nickel and cobalt prices and a favourable variation of about 3 per cent in the average United States-Australian dollar exchange rate.

It reported earlier that net profit of \$A25.02m in the first half against the year ago of \$A30.0m.

WMC Holdings said its stocks of finished nickel products including co-products as at January 8 had a market value of about \$A33m. On the outlook for the second half, the company said demand for nickel remains firm and is broadly balanced with supply, while gold and aluminium markets also remain strong.

Briefly

ICI BONDS

Holders of a further 3,302 6p per cent convertible guaranteed bonds, 1997, have exercised their option to convert them to ICI ordinary stock. Number of bonds outstanding: 51,863. Representing \$51.86m.

EUCALYPTUS PULP MILLS

Island and South American Merchants have sold 30,000 ordinary shares, leaving holding of 1.1m (28.55 per cent). Balcumb Securities have bought 30,000 shares, making holding of \$41,500 (14.33 per cent).

RICHARDS

Chairman told annual meeting that Richards was going to have a very poor year with profits at their lowest for a long time. General economic conditions and recession in carpet industry, plus shutdown of a plant, are blamed.

ARCHIMEDES TRUST

Mr A. W. F. Clapperton has acquired an interest in 122,500 shares of the United States Investment Trust. This is about 6.7 per cent of issued capital.

LESNEY PRODUCTS

Mr E. D. Harrowe, a director, has disposed of 27,500 ordinary shares in Lesney Products, held in name of Monfostan Nominees.

RICKMANSWORTH WATER

Offer for sale of £3m 9 pence preference stock 1985 in Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company has closed underwritten; underwriters will be required to take up 67.25 per cent of stock.

MIDWEST FIDELITY

The merger of Midwest Fidelity into fully-owned subsidiary of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance of Britain has been completed. Albany Atlas capital, the United States operating arm of Guardian Royal said.

STERLING TRUST

Gross income for 1979 up from £2m to £2.57m. Attributable to ordinary shareholders, £1.47m. £1.02m. Total payment raised from 9.4p to 13p gross.

ENGLISH & NEW YORK TST

Gross revenue for 1979 rose from £2.47m to £2.78m. Total gross dividend of 5.14p (4.25p last year), plus special, non-recurring payment of 0.57p (nil). Total payment of "at least" 5.14p expected for 1980. Net asset value of ordinary shares, 56.5p (59.9p a year earlier).

DOUGLAS HOLDINGS

Company intends to conclude its liquidation proceedings at a final meeting to be held on March 14. There is no possibility of returns being made to shareholders.

RICHARDS & WALLINGTON

Norwich Union Insurance now holds 755,761 ordinary shares in Richards & Wallington Industries (\$429 per cent).

Options

Bids and speculation about bids provided a firmer outlook for traded options yesterday as total contracts rose from 475 to 753. Consolidated Gold Fields attracted 435 contracts following further speculation about a bid, while Rascal—currently bidding for Decca—clipped in with 35.

In Cons Gold the April 500p series attracted most demand as the share price smashed through the £5 mark to reach a new high of 508p.

R.T.Z. attracted interest on the back of the sharp rise in the copper price the February 300p series proving popular.

مكتبة من الأصول

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

MEPC plans £12.5m office block deal in Dublin

By Philip Robinson

MEPC Ireland, the Irish arm of the United Kingdom's second biggest property group, MEPC, is to build an Irish £12.5 million office block on the west side of the prestigious St. Stephens Green in Dublin.

The site, which has been used as a local car park for some time, was bought in 1968 and will provide 130,000 square feet of office and facilities for a banking hall.

The group has arranged an Irish £3m will be chipped in by the parent group. The project, to be called the Ardilaun Centre, will bring the value of MEPC Ireland's portfolio to Irish £40m.

MEPC already has two shopping centres, the Stillorgan and Dublinlaughton, both of them about five miles outside Dublin, together worth Irish £30m with industrial interests the group has 32 separate units in Ireland.

The move is part of the group's committed expansion in non-sterling areas, and that now accounts for around 25 per cent of the parent company's portfolio.

One part of the group which has not been seen for some time is its Rhodesian office blocks. They got them in 1971 when MEPC took over London and County Freeholds and they have been run in Rhodesia since then. The group says that it does not envisage revaluing those offices for at least another year.

By Our Financial Staff

Mining Supplies, the Doncaster-based machinery manufacturer, saw its profits more than halve at the interim stage, but is expected to recover during the second half.

On a small rise in turnover from £9.7m to £10m, the group made pretax profits of £551,000 in the six months to October 27, 1979, compared with £1.2m during the corresponding period of the previous year.

The downturn was attributed to the effects of the engineering strike by Mr. Arthur Snipe, chairman, who with his family controls more than 50 per cent of the company. During the second half of last year he also reported a fall in the coal business from the National Coal Board.

At present the group has a healthy order book and the level of turnover is running at a substantially increased rate compared with the first half. This indicates a recovery, but due to the uncertainty involving the steelworkers' strike and other factors, it is impracticable at this time to predict the outcome for the year, he said.

Last year the group made £2.7m pretax and is expected to produce profits of £3m this year.

Lower Soviet grain imports

Chicago, Feb. 6.—Soviet grain imports in the 1979-80 crop year will be reduced by President Carter's embargo on 230,000 metric tons, the United States Agriculture Department director of economics said.

The American embargo had halted exports of 17m tonnes of grain to the USSR, he told the fertilizer industry annual meeting. Mr. Hight said that USDA believes exporters will accept most of the Commodity Credit Corporation offers to buy grain they had contracted to ship to the Soviet Union.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank 17%
Barclays Bank 17%
BCCI Bank 17%
Consolidated Crds 17%
C. Hoare & Co 17%
Lloyds Bank 17%
London Mercantile 17%
Midland Bank 17%
Nat Westminster 17%
Ramsay & Co 17%
TSB 17%
Williams and Glyn's 17%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and over 13% up to £25,000 13.5% over £25,000 14%.

Source: Bank of England, Feb. 6, 1980.

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Wall Street

New York, Feb. 6.—The stock market rose in heavy trading this morning following the late surge yesterday that erased early gains.

Advances led declines two-to-one and the Dow Jones industrial average added four points.

Steels, which led the late rebound yesterday, continued to rise. United States Steel added 2 1/2 to 22 1/2, Bethlehem Steel 2 1/2 to 22 1/2, Republic 2 1/2 to 22 1/2 and Armco 2 1/2 to 21 1/2.

Volume leader LTV added 2 1/2 to 14 1/2.

Oils firmed. Active Exxon and Tectaco added fractions while Amerasia Hess rose 1 1/2 to 57 and Superior 1 1/2 to 55.

February 5: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 1.53 points up at 876.62.

Gold in new gains

New York, Feb. 5.—Gold strengthened by \$2.50 when trading resumed after a weekend pause, pushing the price to \$274.50.

MEPC already has two shopping centres, the Stillorgan and Dublinlaughton, both of them about five miles outside Dublin, together worth Irish £30m with industrial interests the group has 32 separate units in Ireland.

The move is part of the group's committed expansion in non-sterling areas, and that now accounts for around 25 per cent of the parent company's portfolio.

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Last year the group made £2.7m pretax and is expected to produce profits of £3m this year.

Commodities

COPPER was steady—Afternoon—Copper wire bars, 2 1/2 to 3 1/2, 3 1/2 to 4 1/2, 4 1/2 to 5 1/2, 5 1/2 to 6 1/2, 6 1/2 to 7 1/2, 7 1/2 to 8 1/2, 8 1/2 to 9 1/2, 9 1/2 to 10 1/2, 10 1/2 to 11 1/2, 11 1/2 to 12 1/2, 12 1/2 to 13 1/2, 13 1/2 to 14 1/2, 14 1/2 to 15 1/2, 15 1/2 to 16 1/2, 16 1/2 to 17 1/2, 17 1/2 to 18 1/2, 18 1/2 to 19 1/2, 19 1/2 to 20 1/2, 20 1/2 to 21 1/2, 21 1/2 to 22 1/2, 22 1/2 to 23 1/2, 23 1/2 to 24 1/2, 24 1/2 to 25 1/2, 25 1/2 to 26 1/2, 26 1/2 to 27 1/2, 27 1/2 to 28 1/2, 28 1/2 to 29 1/2, 29 1/2 to 30 1/2, 30 1/2 to 31 1/2, 31 1/2 to 32 1/2, 32 1/2 to 33 1/2, 33 1/2 to 34 1/2, 34 1/2 to 35 1/2, 35 1/2 to 36 1/2, 36 1/2 to 37 1/2, 37 1/2 to 38 1/2, 38 1/2 to 39 1/2, 39 1/2 to 40 1/2, 40 1/2 to 41 1/2, 41 1/2 to 42 1/2, 42 1/2 to 43 1/2, 43 1/2 to 44 1/2, 44 1/2 to 45 1/2, 45 1/2 to 46 1/2, 46 1/2 to 47 1/2, 47 1/2 to 48 1/2, 48 1/2 to 49 1/2, 49 1/2 to 50 1/2, 50 1/2 to 51 1/2, 51 1/2 to 52 1/2, 52 1/2 to 53 1/2, 53 1/2 to 54 1/2, 54 1/2 to 55 1/2, 55 1/2 to 56 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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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Rummaging (the other day) the loft for items of old gold, the richer to invade Hatton Garden with, I chanced upon a trunk marked "memory lane". I also came upon some old gold; the Tiffany cigarette case given me by the *femme fatale* in a moment of mad passion and also the silver spoon which I was born with in my mouth. But I digress...

In the memory lane document file were such emotive papers as birth certificates, marriage licences, false-works-death certificates and, yellowing and frayed at the edges, an impressively embossed document headed "Certificate of Merit". The die-stamped banner proclaimed "Wembley Music and Drama Festival 1957".

The mayor (as president of the festival), the deputy mayor (in his capacity as chairman of the organizing committee), the town clerk (honorary secretary) and a Mr Ernest Read (the adjudicator) all certified that I had gained second place in the Piano Solo—16 and

under—Competition. Mr Read, a perceptive, cultured and saintly man, spoke (as I recall) a few words at the end of the competition praising the high standard of the playing. The mayor, before presenting the certificate, said that he was gratified by the turnout.

By turnout I naturally assumed he meant the huge throng of parents, well-wishers and music teachers; for Wembley Town Hall was filled almost to capacity with an audience variously estimated as being between 30 and 33. As it happens, he referred to the competitors' shining faces, shorn locks and neatly pressed ensembles. The talk of my evening coat actually extended below the knees, covering my shorts trousers and making me look for all the world like a cross between a penguin and a stork.

The boy (I should say youth) who won the competition was precocious, brash and very nearly 17. He is now a well known teacher of the piano, so perhaps I

should not mention his name. Then, my shirt-front bursting with pride, the mayor called my name and complimented me on gaining second place. He had the decency (oh yes, he was saintly and cultured as well) not to mention that in the 16-year-old class, there were only two competitors.

Far from convincing me of my very limited ability at the piano, the Wembley Festival drove me to take up the spinet, the harp, the lute and the viol da gamba. I acquired no great proficiency at these either but, as my saintly and cultured music teacher, Miss Pullin, said, it gave me more strings to my bow.

So you will understand that when the Features Editor called for experts in the field of the pianoforte to write (or perhaps play) these pieces, I felt it my duty to step forward and oblige. Naturally, I took the precaution of brushing up on my technique and to this end took a refresher course with my local maestro, R. Peggini.

whose father (Pa Tina) once actually tuned the chords of the great Caruso.

Signor Peggini was obviously impressed and after only a few minutes told me (it came as no great surprise, of course) that there was nothing he felt he could do for me. It is so good for morale, you will agree I am sure, to have confirmed by the very best that which you already know to be true. The problem is: what do you do when you discover that your mastery of the piano is as near complete as is humanly possible?

[Go back to the viol da gamba—Features Ed.]. You see, she too is a cultured and saintly person.

Those of you who entered our recent Christmas quiz will remember that the delightful Sue Lawley wanted the gift of being able to play the piano. My colleague, Beryl Dowling, offered her a pretty Bechstein (on wheels) at the snip price of £11,900. She also suggested

a copy of *Childs Play*, by Lisa Childs and published by Novello at £3.

For the do-it-at-home student, I can recommend Mrs Childs's manuals for the beginner. They include a full-size cardboard keyboard, perfect for the home without a piano. Now I know there are not many homes without a piano, though one or two (mine, at any rate) have had the innards removed to convert the old mahogany upright into a cocktail cabinet cum aquarium. So Mrs Childs's cardboard keys come in handy, as well as being a tasteful addition to the decor.

Mrs Childs has even offered to teach me how to play; but as she has never had a failure and as she seems such a nice lady, I am not going to risk it. My friend from Naples, Ann Dante, has promised to teach me the piccolo during the summer and I have now decided to add some wind to my long list of instruments.

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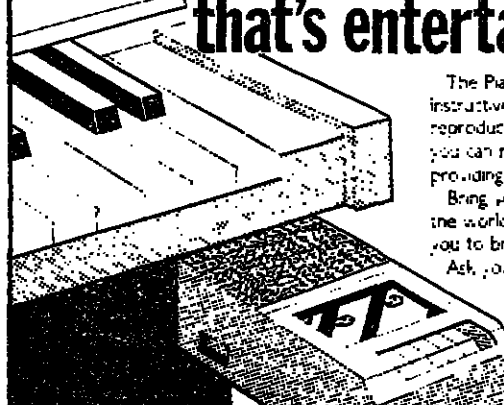
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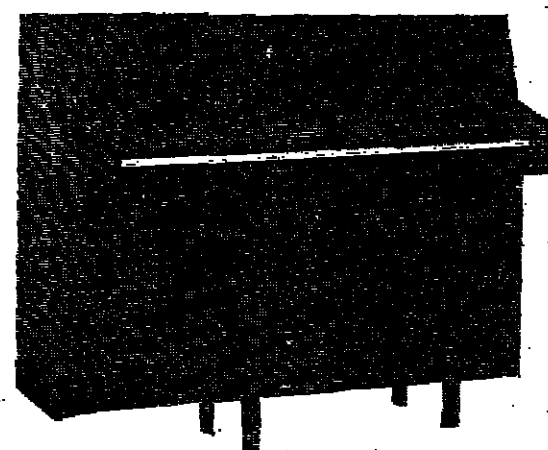
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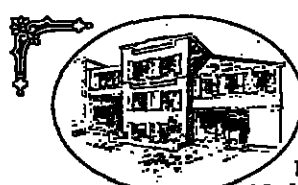


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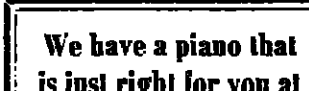
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PERSONAL CHOICE



Christopher Blake (left) and Ray Brooks in the Radio 4 drama series *Detective*, episode six of which is broadcast today (12.27)

Excluding the VAT bit, the title of tonight's *Play for Today*, *Instant Enlightenment* including VAT (BBC 1, 9.25) had an ironic ring about it when Andrew Carr's horrific failed to reach our TV sets in November last year. Instant enlightenment became instant obfuscation when the BBC dramatically whipped the play out of the evening's schedule to make room for a sporting event of such mind-boggling importance that I have quite forgotten what it was. Never mind: I shall see the play tonight, and I hope you survive the experience without feeling as though you had been put through a mangle. Mangled is what most of the characters are, as their expensive weekend seminar at a London hotel shrinks to its climax and they are abused and humiliated out of their old psychological straitjackets and brain-washed into bland new, brand new, clothes which leave them constituting a greater threat to themselves and society than ever they were before.

Vampire (BBC 1, 8.05) drives a stake into the heart of that unkind myth that equates the vampire bat with the blood-sucking Count Dracula. It sets out to assure us that it is actually a compassionate mammal, highly intelligent, very sociable, even gentle... Reginald Rosenquet, on whom vampire gossip writers have supposed as deeply as Dracula ever did on his chosen victims gets a chance to bite back in tonight's *Nationwide* (BBC 1, 5.55).

In common with most public schools, Radley College once regarded sex as the unmentionable thing that lurked in the world outside. These days, it has adopted a more enlightened attitude to it. Some senior studies have explicit pin-up pictures on the walls (the Warden thinks girls' magazines serve to demystify the subject), girls' friends are tolerated and are even brought by bus to Radley dances. In part 4 of the *Radley story* (BBC 2, 8.30), three senior students speak with commendable frankness about sex and the public school boy.

For reconstructed history at its best, you would have to go a long way to beat Piers Plowright's production of *The Putney Debates* (Radio 3, 7.45). First broadcast a few months ago to considerable critical acclaim, Rank and file in Cromwell's New Model Army trade arguments with their generals about democracy, liberty, property, equality. The unprecedented encounter took place in a Putney church in October, 1647, and it was in a church, close by, that tonight's feature was recorded to very considerable dramatic effect. Timothy West plays Cromwell and T. P. McKenna is Henry Ireton, the parliamentary general.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: *STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (V) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: Introduction to the Organ; 7.30 *Crossing the System*. Close down at 7.55.
9.00 *For Schools*, Colleges: Japan; 9.25 *Physical Science* (Hudds); 10.10 *Merry-go-Round* (in church); 10.35 *Scene: Coins Against the Wall*, a play by David Hopkins, about school bullying; 11.05 *Near and Far*; 11.55 *On the Loose* (granite). Close down at 12.20 pm.
12.45 News and weather.
1.00 *Public Mail at One*: Includes Tony Billow's personal tribute to Frank Sinatra—40 years a star; 1.45 *Heads and Tails*: For the very young; *Gullabulloo* (r); 2.00 *You and Me*: Also for the very young.
2.15 *Schools*, Colleges: Music Time; 2.40 *Television Club* (My Way); Close down at 3.00.
3.55 *Play School*: Geoff Lamman's story *The Dragon who Couldn't Make Fire*.
4.20 *The Robotic Stingers*: Cartoon Mother Goose; 4.30 *Jackanory*: Steve Hodson continues reading *Pepito*, by Nina Warner Hooker.
4.40 *Star Turn*: New series of acting games. Competing tonight are John Craven (see next item), Carol Chell and John Junkin versus Johnny Ball, Tina Heath and Norman Beaton. The MC is Graeme Garden.
5.05 *John Craven's Newsround*: Junior newscast.
5.10 *Blue Peter*: How the good folk of Lake Placid in the Adirondack Mountains are preparing for the winter Olympics which start next week.
5.40 *News*: with Richard Baker.
5.55 *Nationwide*: Includes another report by ex-ITN newscaster Reginald Rosenquet. He examines items (7) of the newspaper gossip column writer into whose net Mr Rosenquet has fallen more than once.
6.30 *Tomorrow's World*: Including items on a do-it-yourself ski lift; a device for snipping diction; about your high spirits hits a bump on the record; a deadly poison that can cure a horse's hoof disease; and a meter that can test a surface's degree of slipperiness.
7.25 *Top of the Pops*: The pop music show.
8.05 *Wildlife on One*: Vampire. A documentary about this most unfairly treated mammal (see Personal Choice).
8.30 *Watch this Space*: Comedies about an advertising agency; tonight, the firm has to try to launch a new washing-up liquid. Scarcely the wildest series on television.
9.00 *News*: with Peter Woods.
9.25 *Play for Today*: *Instant En-*

BBC 2

11.00 *Play School*: Same as BBC1.
3.55 *Close down* at 11.25.
3.30 *International Snooker*: The Benson and Hedges Masters. Eddie Charlton of Australia versus John Spencer of Great Britain in a quarter-final match over nine frames. More at 11.30 tonight.
4.00 *Close down* at 4.10.
5.05 *Open University*: The Pre-School Child (Going Shopping).
5.40 *Harold Lloyd*: Scenes from another of the best-loved comic actor's silent films. *The Freshman* and *Spooks*.
6.05 *Film: My Learned Friend* (1943). The last film Will Hay made and not his funniest, either. He plays a shady barrister whose name figures on the death list drawn up by a meek ex-convict (Mervyn Johns). Directed by Hay himself, in tandem with Basil Dearden.
7.15 *News*: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.
8.25 *Whodunnit*: Are the Tories really getting to grips with Whitehall's wasteful bureaucracy? Will the Rayner exercise work? Donald Woodcock puts the questions to two experts.
8.00 *It's Patently Obvious*: Invention quiz game, chaired by Julian Fenner. To identify a series of pictures objects are Will Lunn, Debby Swallow, Brian Cant, Elizabeth Extensson (of 'Liver' fame) and a team from the Port of Bristol Authority.
8.30 *Public School*: The Times have changed. Fourth episode of the profile of Radley College. Tonight, how the school is adopting a more enlightened attitude towards sex (see Personal Choice).
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THAMES

9.30 am *For Schools*: Making a Living—2; 9.55 *Believe or Not* (Islam); 10.09 *Good Health*; 10.35 *French* (clothes and fashion); 10.46 *Berrand Russell* on communism and capitalism; 11.05 *Music Round* (piano); 11.27 *Seeing and Doing* (clips); 11.47 *Picture Box* (the cow).
12.00 *Topper's Tales*: Julian Orchard reads his own story *The Letter*.
12.10 pm *Stepping Stones*: Sheep shearing (r).
12.30 *The Suffragans*: Australian serial set in the last war.
1.00 *News*: 1.20 *Thames News*.
1.30 *Together*: Serial about life in a block of flats, Rutherford Court.
2.00 *Afternoon Plus*: With 42 bacon twirlers from Plymouth. Also, how to make succulent punnets.
2.45 *The Spoils of War*: Repeat of episode 2 of John Finch's serial about soldiers and civilians towards the end of the last war. Love with a German widow and a Ukrainian prisoner of war.
3.45 *Looks Familiar*: The show-

Lightenment Including VAT

Andrew Carr's unsettling play about a seminar in a London hotel where 17 people are thrust into a new consciousness of the meaning of life. With Simon Callow (see Personal Choice).
10.50 *Platform One*: Are schools and universities doing their jobs properly? Michael McCrum, headmaster of Eton and soon to be Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, is interviewed by Richard Baker.
11.20 *The Sky at Night*: Saturn and its rings are discussed by Patrick Moore on this quest, Paul Doherty, of the British Astronomical Association.
11.50 *News* headlines.

Regions

VARIOUS: Wales: 2.15 pm 1. *Ychydig*, 5.55 *Wales Today*, 6.00 *Headlines*, 6.15 *Wales Sports*, 6.30 *Wales Today*, 6.45 *Wales Sports*, 6.55 *Wales Today*, 7.00 *Wales Sports*, 7.15 *Wales Today*, 7.30 *Wales Sports*, 7.45 *Wales Today*, 7.55 *Wales Sports*, 8.00 *Wales Today*, 8.15 *Wales Sports*, 8.30 *Wales Today*, 8.45 *Wales Sports*, 8.55 *Wales Today*, 9.00 *Wales Sports*, 9.15 *Wales Today*, 9.30 *Wales Sports*, 9.45 *Wales Today*, 9.55 *Wales Sports*, 10.00 *Wales Today*, 10.15 *Wales Sports*, 10.30 *Wales Today*, 10.45 *Wales Sports*, 10.55 *Wales Today*, 11.00 *Wales Sports*, 11.15 *Wales Today*, 11.30 *Wales Sports*, 11.45 *Wales Today*, 11.55 *Wales Sports*, 12.00 *Wales Today*, 12.15 *Wales Sports*, 12.30 *Wales Today*, 12.45 *Wales Sports*, 12.55 *Wales Today*, 1.00 *Wales Sports*, 1.15 *Wales Today*, 1.30 *Wales Sports*, 1.45 *Wales Today*, 1.55 *Wales Sports*, 2.00 *Wales Today*, 2.15 *Wales Sports*, 2.30 *Wales Today*, 2.45 *Wales Sports*, 2.55 *Wales Today*, 3.00 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